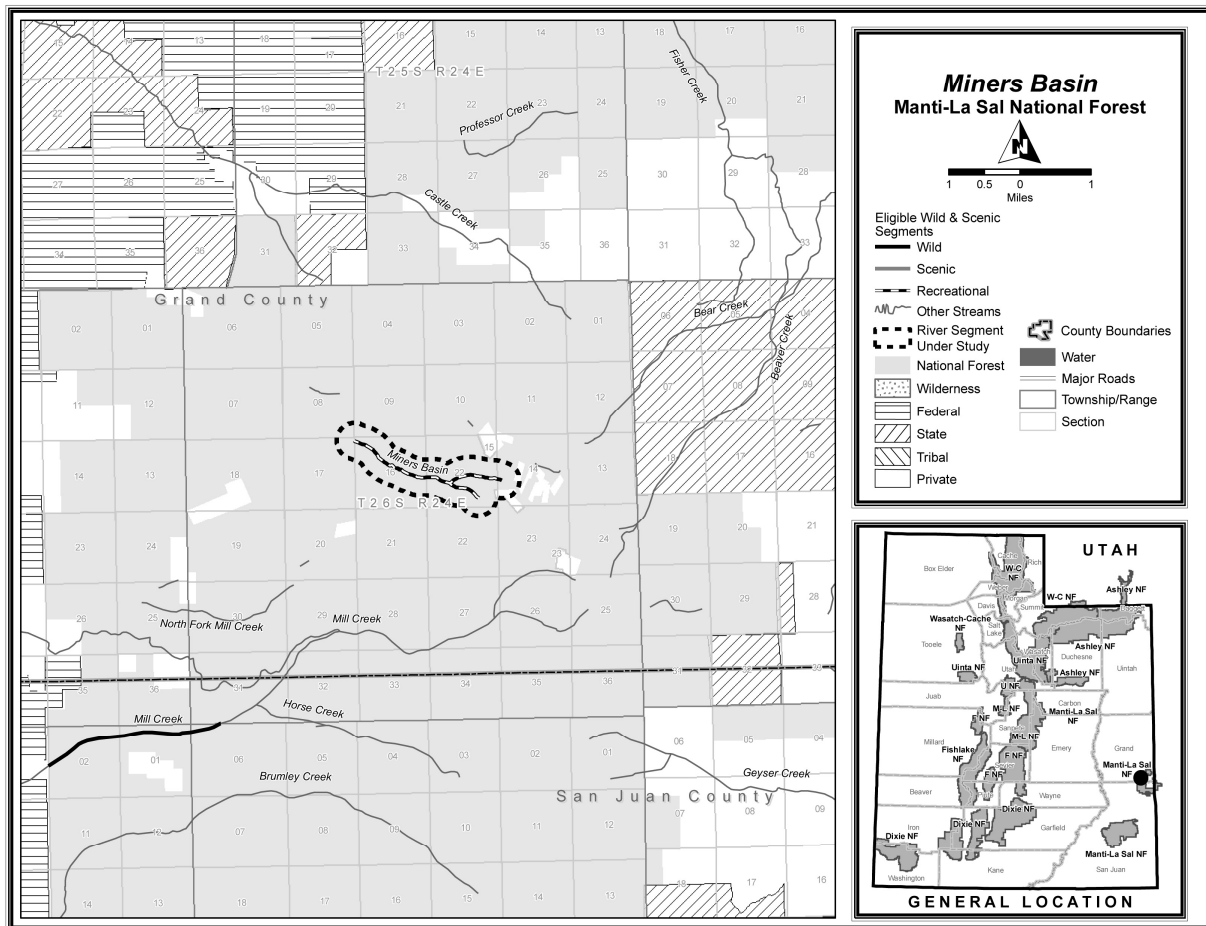


Miners Basin (Placer Creek) Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Miners Basin (Placer Creek)

River Mileage:

Studied: 1.74 miles from the headwaters in Miners Basin on the southwest slopes of Horse Mountain to the junction with Pinhook Creek.

Eligible: Same

Location:

Miners Basin (Placer Creek)	Manti-La Sal National Forest, Moab Ranger District, Grand County, Utah		Congressional District 2	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	North Tributary Northing 4267112 Easting 652594	Northing 4267995 Easting 649262	Recreational	1.74

	South Tributary Northing 4266716 Easting 652068 <i>Coordinates are in UTM Zone 12 N. NAD 83, meters</i>			
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Physical Description of River Segment: The majority of the water in the Miners Basin (Placer Creek) drainage originates from a mine adit. Snowmelt and summer monsoons also augment flows in this small rocky drainage. Even though the gradients are steep in the headwaters, the channel is stable due mainly to rocky bottoms. The middle reaches cut through shale, and bank erosion is more prevalent. Lower reaches are in Castle Valley alluvial material that moves easily during spring runoff and intense summer rainstorms. There is no fish habitat in the watercourse, due to lack of perennial water, a small stream channel, and limited cover from bank vegetation and channel boulders.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Final Eligibility Determination of Wild and Scenic Rivers of Rivers, March 2003, (USDA Forest Service Supplement to the Manti-La Sal NF Final Eligibility Determination of Wild and Scenic Rivers, 2005)

Determination of Free-flow: The watercourse is primarily free flowing but an old earthen impoundment has created a pond within the segment.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Historic – Historical mining operations (buildings, mine shafts, tailings) occur on patented mining claims and are highly visible in the headwaters in Miners Basin. Miners Basin at one time supported a community of several hundred mineworkers and was one of the area's largest gold mining operations. The watercourse has high ratings for significance, education and interpretation opportunities, and national listing eligibility.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River: Recreational

Forest Road 4065 roughly parallels the segment and crosses it in two places. A Forest Service Trailhead and restroom are also located along the segment.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – The entire 1.74 miles of the eligible segment and corridor are located on NFS lands.

Patented mining claims occur at the headwaters of Placer Creek above and east of the main channel. Also, Pinhook Creek runs along private land for 1/4 mile just upstream from the Forest boundary. This is approximately 2 1/8 miles downstream from the confluence of Placer Creek (Miners Basin) and Pinhook Creek.

There are approximately 20 mining claims in Miners Basin and along Placer Creek. Some claims have surface rights. None of the claims have been patented.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – Gold exploration and mining occurred in Miners Basin during the early 1900s. Gold occurred both in hydrothermally altered igneous intrusions and placer deposits in glacial till and outwash derived from the igneous source rock. Most of the "hard rock" gold mining occurred in the upper part of Miners Basin. Copper was also found in various forms but the primary target was gold.

Placer gold mining took place along Placer Creek and nearby Bald Mesa and Wilson Mesa.

Exploration continued into the early 1990s. There are still four active claims within the studied segment. The Yale, Dartmouth, Wabash and Perdue claims are all listed as actively seeking minerals.

Water Resources Development – The State of Utah Water Rights Database indicates that there is one surface water diversion (an earthen impoundment) and one groundwater diversion within the proposed wild and scenic segment. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Forest Road 4065 roughly parallels the segment and crosses it in two places. A large constructed Forest Service Trailhead consisting of a graveled parking area, restrooms, information kiosk, trail register, and a gate are located adjacent to the segment.

There is one right of way in the name of Grand County that crosses the studied segment.

Grazing Activities – The entire segment is located within the Castle Valley Cattle Allotment and is grazed throughout the summer months.

Recreation Activities – The primary recreation that occurs within the corridor is auto touring along the Forest Road. The Miners Basin trailhead is relatively heavily used by hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians to access the trails in the area. Fishing also occurs in the pond adjacent to the trailhead.

Other Resource Activities – No other potential resource activities exist.

Special Designations – No special designation exists, but the segment is located between two Inventoried Roadless Areas.

Socio-Economic Environment – The eligible segment is located within Grand County, with the nearest population base being Moab, Utah. The socio-economic setting of Grand County is one based primarily on the hospitality and tourism industries. The main reason that visitors come to the area is the incredible scenery and the wide range of outdoor activities available in the surrounding public lands. While the majority of visitors to the area come to see Arches and Canyonlands National Parks, the La Sal Mountains in the Moab Ranger District provide a magnificent backdrop to the Parks and other public lands around Moab. While Miners Basin itself may not be the primary reason that visitors travel to the area, it is a popular area for hiking, biking, hunting and sightseeing and provides additional recreational opportunities to the Moab area.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is the USFS.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be

\$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

There is no demonstrated commitment to share the administration of the eligible section by the State or its political subdivision.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any local zoning and/or land use controls that appear to conflict with protection of river values.

The entire corridor is on NFS managed lands.

The State and county governments currently do not have the authority or ability, to protect the outstandingly remarkable historic value on non-federal lands. It is highly unlikely that either the State or counties would pass legislation or zoning ordinances that would protect the outstandingly remarkable scenic, geologic or other values on non-federal lands.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

In verbal comments received at the Suitability Open House in Moab, Utah, Grand County was not opposed to designation of this segment nor were they supportive of the designation. The Utah Rivers Council and Red Rock Forests have both expressed support for designating this segment as a Recreational River.

Draft EIS comments regarding Miners Basin were not specific and limited to support of all 86 river segments being designated. None of the three organized campaigns supported a positive suitability finding for this segment.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation as a recreational river is consistent with current management plans of the area but it would not protect the historic values associated with the segment. As long as the mining claims remain active, the structures on the mining claims related to the historic mining are owned by the claimant.

The entire stream segment lies within the Semi-Primitive Recreation emphasis area where the management direction is to provide semi- primitive recreation opportunities. Other uses may occur so long as they are rehabilitated to reflect as close as possible previous undisturbed conditions. Designation would be consistent with this direction.

Grand County General Plan Update – April 2004 states:

Wild and Scenic Rivers

Public Lands Policy 19. Grand County will participate and promote cooperation with the administering Federal agency for any proposed or designated wild, scenic or recreational river components to the national wild and scenic river system for planning and administrative purposes. Management plans for any component added to this system shall be established to accommodate the component's special attributes and existing regular uses. This designation should not interfere with the current B and D road map developed by the County, unless the County agrees to vacate those rights-of-way.

[Code 16 U.S.C. § 1279, Withdrawal Of Public Lands From Entry, Sale, Or Other Disposition Under Public Land Laws, and more specifically, (b) Lands Constituting Bed or Bank of River; Lands Within Bank Area] or with any valid existing water right (Code 16U.S.C. § 1284, Existing State jurisdiction and responsibilities, and more specifically (b)Compensation for water rights].

(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

Miners Basin (Placer Creek) is a very small stream and the designation of this small portion of it would not contribute to river system or basin integrity nor would it protect the historic structures in Miners Basin.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

Several local environmental organizations have expressed interest in volunteering to assist in the management of Miners Basin (Placer Creek) as a Recreational River.

[illegible]

Mill Creek Gorge	Manti-La Sal National Forest, Moab Ranger District, San Juan County, Utah		Congressional District Ut-2	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	Northing 4261597	Northing 4260621	Wild	2.57
	Easting 646240	Easting 642342		
	<i>Coordinates are in UTM Zone 12 N. NAD 83, meters</i>			

Private land occurs above the rim along portions of Mill Creek Gorge but no private lands occur within the gorge itself.

Physical Description of River Segment: Mill Creek flows originate from snowmelt from the La Sal Mountains. Flows typically peak in early June and taper off to base flows sustained from springs present in the upper reaches and summer monsoons. This is a sediment limited system with clear and clean flows. At the beginning the river segment, the channel cuts through exposed rock in a very narrow canyon as the watercourse descends the west facing slopes of the La Sal Mountains. Water has cut through sandstone formations in the upper areas of the segment, forming a moderately deep gorge with vertical walls, small cascading water falls, and deep pools. The narrow riparian corridor consists of dense stands of river birch, alder, various willow species and box elder. The channel cuts down into an inner gorge of darker geologic parent material near the RNA boundary. Bench lands of moderately deep soils are present above the inner gorge. Towards the bottom of the segment, the canyon becomes more open in character.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Final Eligibility Determination of Wild and Scenic Rivers of Rivers, March 2003, (USDA Forest Service Supplement to the Manti-La Sal NF Final Eligibility Determination of Wild and Scenic Rivers, 2005)

Determination of Free-flow: Within the eligible river segment, there are no major diversions or significant channel modifications. However, upstream of the segment there are several ditches on the main stem of Mill Creek and its tributaries. These ditches dewater the stream to some degree during summer months; however, the stream recovers along its length from spring inputs above the eligible segment.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Scenic – At the beginning of the eligible segment, the channel cuts through exposed rock in a very narrow canyon as the watercourse descends the west facing slopes of the La Sal Mountains. Water has cut through sandstone formations in the upper areas of the watercourse, forming a moderately deep gorge with vertical walls, small cascading water falls, deep pools, and dense riparian vegetation. At mid-elevation the channel cuts across bench lands of moderately deep soils before entering a defined canyon of exposed sandstone. Prominent peaks with sheer cliffs of jagged rock form the backdrop of the watercourse.

Vegetation cover changes dramatically with elevation and soil structure. At mid-elevation, Douglas-fir and mountain brush community types line the ridge tops and grow in interesting mosaic patterns on side slopes. In the lower canyon area, visually attractive willow, cottonwood, and poplar trees outline the watercourse in canyon bottoms, and pinyon-juniper stands grow on adjacent ridges and side slopes.

Defined and narrow canyons focus the eye from the peaks to the majestic views of the desert floor below, including the long, narrow Spanish Valley at the foot of the mountains. Color contrast is exceptional. Shades of green against rock-capped peaks draw the eye upward. The contrast changes to greens, yellows and tans at mid-elevation as the channels cut through layers of sandstone rock. Near the terminus of the watercourse, the yellows, tans and reds of Navajo, Chinle and Moenkopi sandstone formations provide vivid contrast with the colors of mountain brush, pinyon-juniper and deciduous trees. Views of the alpine peaks are dramatic. Fall color changes are dramatic and visually appealing, and are highly visible from the US Highway 191 traversing the foothills of the mountains.

Geologic/Hydrologic – The watercourse descends through five different formations in the main canyon areas (Mancos shale, Dakota sandstone, Morrison formation, Summerville formation, and Entrada

sandstone). The terminus of the watercourse ends in the Navajo, Chinle and Moenkopi sandstone formations. This geology is dipping to the west, with the western edges along a collapsed salt dome (Spanish Valley). The middle canyon area has moderately steep valley bottoms, while the lower canyon areas are within narrow and steep sandstone canyons. At mid elevation, the channel crosses bench lands and drops again along moderately steep gradients over sandstone bedrock. The channel is rocky with steep gradients in the headwaters and then levels out as it crosses through basin areas. Soils are generally stable except for the channel locations on bench lands. Here, soil erosion is moderate due to erosive shale and other sedimentary rock layers.

Other Similar Values – Mill Creek Gorge is part of the Mill Creek Gorge Research Natural Area exhibiting dense, vigorous riparian and woody shrubs in a wet environment. The narrow and deep canyon area is unique to the surrounding xeric ecosystems.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River: Wild

The river is not accessible by roads, and there is little evidence of human activity. Above the segment Mill Creek Gorge is crossed by the La Sal Loop Scenic Backway, but the segment itself is unroaded and without constructed trails.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – The entire 2.57 miles of the eligible segment and corridor are located on NFS lands.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – The upper canyon slopes above the rim of the Mill Creek Gorge are formed in the potentially uranium bearing Salt Wash Member of the Morrison Formation. Three abandoned uranium-vanadium prospects are located on these slopes. The first is located 1 1/2 miles downstream from the La Sal Loop Road on the north side of the canyon. The other two are located 2 1/4 miles downstream from the La Sal Loop Road on the south side of the canyon. A number of old roads that are probably related to historic uranium exploration are located in the general vicinity of these prospects.

Water Resources Development – There are no existing water developments within the eligible segment. Several developments and diversions exist above and below the segment. It is not foreseen that designation will limit and future water developments on the segment itself because the segment is so rugged and inaccessible. No historic or current preliminary FERC permits or license applications have been issued on the segment. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – No roads exist within the corridor of the eligible segment. No authorized trails exist in the corridor but, several user created foot trails provide access to popular rock climbing areas within the gorge.

The Rattlesnake power line crosses above the eligible segment. Power poles are not visible from the river segment but the suspended power lines are visible.

There is one road right of way in the river corridor, issued to Grand County.

Grazing Activities – The entire eligible segment is within the Brumley Cattle Grazing Allotment, however due to the ruggedness of the terrain within the gorge very little actual grazing occurs within the corridor.

Recreation Activities – Mill Creek Gorge has become a popular climbing area and provides a place to climb in relatively cool temperatures compared to other popular lower elevation climbing areas around Moab. Numerous bolted routes exist throughout the gorge with the majority of developed routes occurring upstream of the eligible segment. In recent years more routes have begun to be developed lower in the gorge along the eligible segment. The climbing is generally located along the vertical cracks formed in the sandstone of the gorge and most of the climbs are rated as difficult routes (5.10 and above). Aside from the climbing itself, several user created trails have been built to provide access to the base of the climbing routes. Some of the trails actually use cable ladders and constructed steps to reach the bottom of the gorge. The area is featured on several websites and has been written about in popular climbing magazines. Recreational use in the gorge is expected to increase. The Forest Service will be considering more intensive management of the area as monitoring shows impacts occurring to the resources that the Research Natural Area was designated to protect.

The stream also provides opportunities for stream fishing for brown trout, a relatively rare opportunity in southeast Utah. Due to the dense vegetation and rugged nature of the gorge, fishing use is very light.

No designated or authorized trails or other recreational facilities exist within the corridor.

Other Resource Activities – No other potential resource activities exist due to the ruggedness of the terrain.

Special Designations – The entire eligible segment is within the Mill Creek Gorge Research Natural Area (RNA). The RNA was designated to protect the unique riparian area in the gorge. The designation of RNAs is an administrative decision, designed to preserve a representative sample of an ecological community primarily for scientific and educational purposes. Intrusive management practices are not generally allowed in RNAs. The Mill Creek Gorge RNA was designated in June of 2000.

Socio-Economic Environment – The eligible segment is located within San Juan County, however the nearest population base is Moab, Utah, located in Grand County. The socio-economic setting of Grand County is one based primarily on the hospitality and tourism industries. The main reason that visitors come to the area is the incredible scenery and the wide range of outdoor activities available in the surrounding public lands. While the majority of visitors to the area come to see Arches and Canyonlands National Parks the La Sal Mountains in the Moab Ranger District provide a magnificent backdrop to the parks and other public lands around Moab. While Mill Creek itself may not be the primary reason that visitors travel to the area it is becoming an increasingly popular climbing area and provides additional recreational opportunities to the Moab area. Several permitted local climbing guide companies operate in the gorge.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is the USFS. The entire eligible portion is located on National Forest land. Funding would not be required to acquire adjacent lands.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

San Juan County will not share in the administration, the cost or preservation of a wild and scenic river designation of Mill Creek Gorge. The State has indicated no interest in sharing the administration or costs associated with of the eligible section of Mill Creek Gorge.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands.

The entire corridor is located on lands managed by the US Forest Service.

The State and county governments currently do not have the authority or ability, to protect the outstandingly remarkable wildlife value on non-federal lands. It is highly unlikely that either the State or counties would pass legislation or zoning ordinances that would protect the outstandingly remarkable scenic, geologic or other values on non-federal lands.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

In verbal comments made during the Suitability Open House in Moab, Utah, June of 2007, a San Juan County commission member and two Grand County Council members expressed neither opposition nor support for designation of Mill Creek Gorge as a Wild and Scenic River. They preferred to remain neutral on the subject. In correspondence dated September 2005, San Juan County stated "The vast majority of San Juan County residents do not support wild and scenic designation for Mill Creek Gorge. Many have expressed a strong opposition to such designation". The Utah Rivers Council and Red Rock Forests have both expressed support for designating this segment as a Wild River.

Draft EIS comments from the San Juan County Commission, City of Monticello and local residents strongly oppose WSR designation for Mill Creek Gorge. Among the variety of reasons for opposing designation were: the probability of reduced grazing, mining and oil exploration water rights restrictions would have a negative effect on the economy; and it is already protected by other special management.

Draft EIS comments from individuals and groups not living in San Juan County voiced support for WSR designation of Mill Creek Gorge. Red Rock Forests is committed to assisting the Manti-La Sal National forest by providing volunteers and partnering in managing any and all segments that are designated as Wild and Scenic within the forest. None of the three organized campaigns supported a positive finding of suitability for this segment.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

The designation is consistent with the management plan prepared for the Mill Creek Gorge RNA, as it would further protect the unique resources within the RNA. The entire segment lies within the Semi-Primitive Recreation emphasis area where the management direction is to provide semi-primitive recreation opportunities. Other uses may occur so long as they are rehabilitated to reflect as close as possible previous undisturbed conditions. Designation would be consistent with this direction.

The designation would conflict with the San Juan County Master Plan (Chapter 1 Policy of Public Lands, General/State: pages 9-13; Policy on Multiple Use: pages 13-15; Policy of Public Access: pages 18-21; Policy on Private and Public Land Ratios: pages 22-24; and Policy on Water Resources: pages 30-32).

Grand County General Plan Update – April 2004 states:

Wild and Scenic Rivers

Public Lands Policy 19. Grand County will participate and promote cooperation with the administering Federal agency for any proposed or designated wild, scenic or recreational river components to the national wild and scenic river system for planning and administrative purposes. Management plans for any component added to this system shall be established to accommodate the component's special attributes and existing regular uses. This designation should not interfere with the current B and D road map developed by the County, unless the County agrees to vacate those rights-of-way. [Code 16 U.S.C. § 1279, Withdrawal Of Public Lands From Entry, Sale, Or Other Disposition Under Public Land Laws, and more specifically, (b) Lands Constituting Bed or Bank of River; Lands Within Bank Area] or with any valid existing water right (Code 16U.S.C. § 1284, Existing State jurisdiction and responsibilities, and more specifically (b)Compensation for water rights].

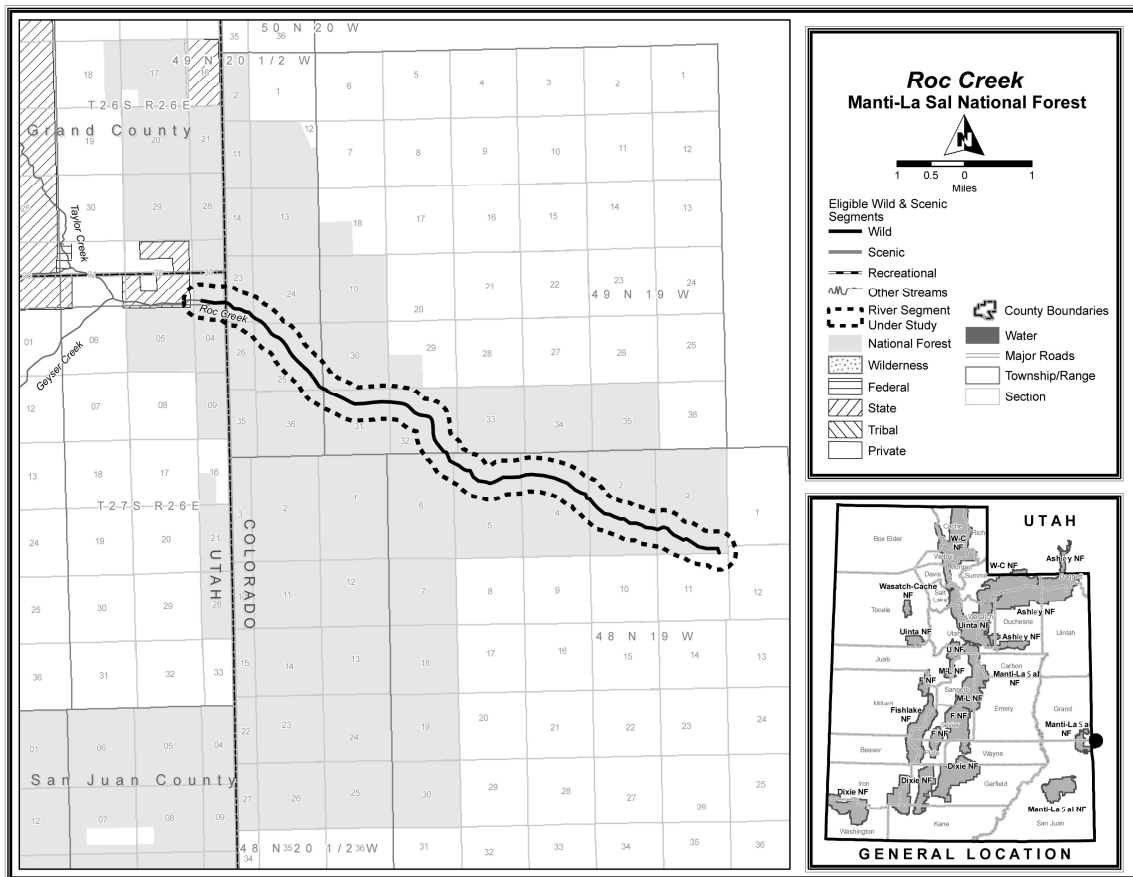
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

Mill Creek is a small tributary of the Colorado River. The stream is unique in that it is a perennial stream in an arid environment. Before joining the Colorado the stream flows through BLM and private lands including the City of Moab. If the Forest Service segment was designated by itself it would contribute very little to river system or basin integrity, as the segment is a very small portion of Mill Creek. However if the BLM and Forest Service portions of the creek were designated it would add protection to a large portion of the stream system and would protect a unique desert watercourse. Even if the BLM and Forest Service portions were designated a significant amount of the stream would remain unprotected on private lands.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

Several local environmental organizations have expressed interest in volunteering to assist in the management of Mill Creek as a Wild River.

Roc Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Roc Creek

River Mileage:

Studied: 9.40 miles from a point 0.1 miles east of western boundary of the National Forest in San Juan County, Utah to the eastern boundary of the National Forest in Montrose County, Colorado.

Eligible: Same

Location: *Coordinates are in UTM Zone 12 N. NAD 83, meters*

Roc Creek	Manti-La Sal National Forest, Moab Ranger District, San Juan County, Utah and Montrose County, Colorado		Congressional District UT -2 CO-3	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	Northing 4262375 Easting 668565	Northing 4256363 Easting 680957	Wild	9.4

Physical Description of River Segment: The majority of the flows in Roc Creek originate from artesian groundwater (Geyser Spring) in the upper reaches of the watercourse. Snowmelt and summer monsoons augment these flows. A waterfall exists within the canyon that breaks the canyon into two somewhat

distinct sections. Above the waterfall, the canyon vegetation could generally be categorized as a forested ecosystem with Douglas fir, aspen, ponderosa pine and box elder present. The gradient of the stream is steeper in this section with water cascading over large cobble alluvium. Below the waterfall, the canyon widens and the gradient flattens. This section is typical of lower elevation, desert type canyon systems with cottonwood and sagebrush present in the riparian area and upland terraces. The channel bottom consists of sandier materials interspersed with cobble and gravel. In this section, considerable alluvium has been deposited within the canyon due to uniformity of gradient producing bench land areas along the canyon bottom.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Final Eligibility Determination of Wild and Scenic Rivers of Rivers, March 2003, (USDA Forest Service Supplement to the Manti-La Sal NF Final Eligibility Determination of Wild and Scenic Rivers, 2005)

Determination of Free-flow: Within the eligible river segment, there are no major diversions or significant channel modifications. However, upstream of the segment several ditches remove some of the natural flow.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs):

Scenic – Sinbad Ridge forms the north wall of the 1,500-foot gorge of Roc Creek. Green forests of Douglas fir and ponderosa pine frame the brilliant red walls of the canyon. A pinyon-juniper forest covers the mesa above the canyon. Faulting and erosion have created ledges, benches and spire-like sandstone columns along the cliff areas of the gorge and along Sinbad Ridge. Views within the canyon range from 3 to 5 miles. The free-flowing stream descends through diverse riparian vegetation. Flows are gentle with some cascading water. One waterfall exists within the canyon. Alluvial deposition has produced bench land areas along the canyon bottom, especially in the middle section. Vistas within several areas of the gorge are expansive and varied, ranging from high mountain peaks to canyons and mesas, and eventually to wide valley areas. Diversity of view and special features are rated high.

Geologic/Hydrologic – Roc Creek descends through a geologic sequence beginning at the Forest boundary at the upper end of the canyon in the upper Jurassic Morrison Formation. The sequence continues through the Jurassic-Triassic Glen Canyon Group (Navajo, Kayenta, Wingate) to the Triassic Chinle Formation at the Forest boundary at the lower end.

Massive sandstone cliffs vary from 1,500 to 1,800 feet in height. The canyon follows fault lines between two collapsed salt domes (Sinbad Valley and Paradox Valley), and terminates in the Dolores River Canyon area. The channel gradient is uniform for most of its length, with moderate gradients. Considerable alluvium has been deposited within the canyon due to uniformity of gradient. Faulting and erosion has created patterns of ledges, benches and slick rock aprons along Sinbad Ridge. Ratings are high for feature abundance and diversity.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River: Wild

The river is not accessible by roads, and there is little evidence of human activity. Roc Creek Trail (310) descends in to the middle section of the canyon from a trailhead located on Carpenter Ridge. This trail crosses the channel and connects to the Sinbad Trail (001) on Sinbad Ridge.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – The entire 9.4 miles of the segment and the corridor are on NFS managed lands.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – Numerous abandoned uranium mines and prospects of the Uravan Mining District are located in the Roc Creek area. The uranium bearing Salt Wash Member of the Morrison Formation crops out along the southern rim of Roc Creek Canyon. The Red Bird Mine and numerous prospects are located in this area.

The Morrison Formation also crops out on a mesa between Garvey Gulch and Roc Creek on a downdropped fault block. This locality is east of the Forest boundary and downstream from the stream segment being considered for suitability. It is here that the Rajah Mine is located. The Rajah may have been the first mine in Colorado to produce carnotite with history of production dating back to the late 1800s.

These mines have been abandoned since the uranium boom of the 1950-80s. Since uranium prices have risen in the last few years, interest in the Uravan Mining District has been rekindled including the Carpenter Flat area along the southern rim of Roc Creek. There are, however, no producing mines within the Manti-La Sal National Forest in the Roc Creek area at this time.

Additionally, the potentially uranium bearing Chinle Formation crops out in the lower part of the canyon, but no historic mines or prospects are evident.

Finally, an oil and gas lease exists within the upper portion of the eligible segment.

Water Resources Development – There are no existing water developments within the eligible segment. Several developments exist above the segment. The ownership of the headwaters of Roc Creek, above the eligible segment, consists of privately owned land and lands administered by the State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration. Numerous spring and instream diversions exist throughout these above-mentioned lands, including the large ditch that diverts water from Deep Creek and Geyser Creek (two major tributaries of Roc Creek) into Buckeye Reservoir. Development of springs throughout the headwaters of Roc Creek has probably decreased recharge to shallow aquifer systems somewhat and may reduce base flow during the summer months in Roc Creek. Likewise, ditch diversions would have the greatest impact on base flows during summer months.

It is not foreseen that designation would limit any future water developments because the segment is so rugged and inaccessible. No historic or current preliminary FERC permits or license applications have been issued on the segment. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – No roads exist within the corridor of the eligible segment. One Forest Service Trail (310) provides access to the middle portion of the segment and crosses the canyon.

Grazing Activities – The creek is the boundary between two cattle allotments, Sinbad Allotment on the north and the North Paradox Allotment on the south. Due to the rugged nature of the terrain only incidental grazing occurs along the creek.

Recreation Activities – Forest Service Trail #310 provides access to the canyon of Roc Creek. The segment also contains a trout fishery and provides opportunities for stream fishing in the lower end.

Other Resource Activities – Some timber harvesting has occurred on the adjacent mesa tops some of it within a ¼ mile of the eligible segment. This use could potentially occur again in the area.

Special Designations – The entire segment is located within the Roc Creek Inventoried Roadless Area and is currently managed under the 2001 Roadless Rule.

Socio-Economic Environment – The majority of the segment is within Montrose County, Colorado. The largest sectors of the county economy are the retail trade and manufacturing sectors. The river corridor itself is in a remote, unpopulated portion of the county. Designation may increase tourist visitation in this portion of the county.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is the USFS.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

There is no demonstrated commitment to share the administration, cost or preservation of the eligible section by the State or its political subdivision.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any local zoning and/or land use controls that appear to conflict with protection of river values.

The entire corridor is on NFS managed lands. Montrose County plans do not mention either wild and scenic rivers or management of public lands on the Manti-La Sal National Forest.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

In verbal comments received at the Suitability Open House in Moab, Utah, San Juan and Grand Counties were neither opposed nor supportive of designation of this segment. However, San Juan County is concerned about the effects Wild and Scenic River status would have on the private and State lands which form the headwaters of this drainage. The Utah Rivers Council and Red Rock Forests have both expressed support for designating this segment as a Wild River.

There were very few comments on the draft EIS concerning Roc Creek. For the most part interest was neutral. None of the three organized campaigns supported a positive finding of suitability for this segment. The Commissioners in Montrose County didn't have an opinion that they expressed.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives

Designation would be consistent with current management of the area as a Roadless Area. The stream segment passes through two different areas of management emphasis as outlined in the Manti-La Sal Land and Resource Management Plan of 1986. The majority of Roc Creek lies within the Semi-Primitive Recreation emphasis area where the management direction is to provide semi-primitive recreation opportunities. Other uses may occur so long as they are rehabilitated to reflect as close as possible previous undisturbed conditions. Designation would be consistent with this direction. The remainder of

Roc Creek is within the Range Emphasis area where the management direction is to produce wood fiber and where appropriate, forage. Other uses occur and the use or its rehabilitation emphasizes rangeland maintenance or enhancement. Designation would not be entirely inconsistent with this direction.

There is no mention of wild and scenic rivers in the Montrose County plan.

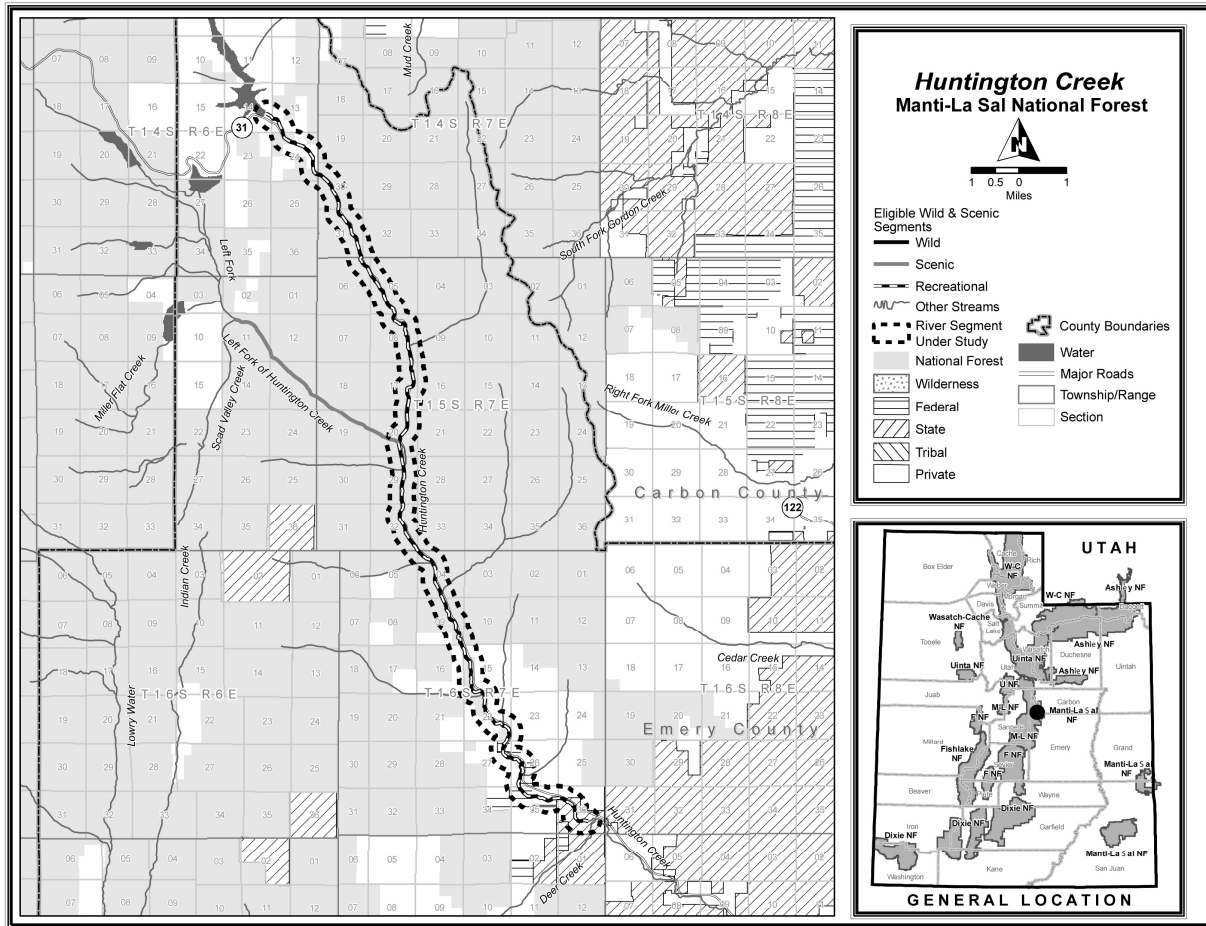
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

Roc Creek is a relatively small tributary of the Dolores River. The stream is unique in that it is a perennial stream in an arid environment. Before joining the Dolores, the stream flows through BLM and private lands. If the Forest Service segment were designated it would contribute some to overall river system or basin integrity as it would add additional protection to the majority of the stream length. However, much of the creek outside of the eligible segment is located on private and State lands and would not be protected by the designation.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment

Several local environmental organizations have expressed interest in volunteering to assist in the management of Roc Creek as a Wild River.

Huntington Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Huntington Creek

River Mileage:

Studied: 19.29 miles from the outlet at Electric Lake to the point of diversion at the Huntington Power Plant.

Eligible: Same

Location: Coordinates are in UTM Zone 12 N. NAD 83, meters

Huntington Creek	Manti-La Sal National Forest, Ferron and Price Ranger Districts, Emery County, Utah				Congressional District 2	
	Start		End		Classification	Rounded Miles
	Northing	Easting	Northing	Easting		
Segment 1	4376482	480759	4372300	486303	Recreational	19

Physical Description of River: Huntington Creek flows through well-defined canyons with steep side slopes and rock outcrops. Relatively flat terrain is associated with the flood plains of the creek. Flows in Huntington Creek have been artificially regulated to the point that what is now considered “normal” flow

is actually a reflection of how PacifiCorp has operated the Huntington Power Plant. In this reach of Huntington Creek, the quantity and quality of water are comparable to a natural condition.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Final Eligibility Determination of Wild and Scenic Rivers of Rivers, March 2003, (USDA Forest Service Supplement to the Manti-La Sal NF Final Eligibility Determination of Wild and Scenic Rivers, 2005)

Determination of Free-flow: There are no diversions on the stream channel. The dam at Electric Lake at the beginning of the segment and the Huntington Power Plant diversion at the end of the segment are considered segment breaks and, therefore, are not part of the watercourse.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Scenic – The canyon area is narrow, with a willow/riparian bottom and tree covered side slopes. The corridor of the creek exhibits rich diversity in vegetation and geology. The canyon areas and side canyons are capped with sandstone formations. The colorful geology, aspen and mountain brush on south facing slopes, conifer cover on north facing slopes, lush riparian vegetation along crystal clear streams, and rock outcrops and ledges all provide outstanding scenery in canyon environments. As with the higher elevations of Huntington Canyon, the beauty and diversity of these canyons attract thousands of visitors each year. The Huntington Canyon and Eccles National Scenic Byways and Skyline Drive Scenic Backway are the principal access routes in the area. These well-traveled roads provide access to several Forest development roads and the trails located within the corridor.

Recreation – Huntington Creek is the main attraction in the watershed. The creek and adjacent terrain serve as base areas for exceptional recreation opportunities, such as camping, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, all terrain vehicle use, driving for pleasure, and rock climbing. The Castle Valley Ridge Trail system is also located within the corridor of the watercourse. There are many popular developed recreation sites adjacent to the creek, including campgrounds and trailheads. The creek also supports a significant brown trout sport fishery and fishing pressure is high. Cross-country skiing also occurs on some of the trails within the canyon area during winter months.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River: Recreational

Some developments exist, there is substantial evidence of human activity, the river is accessible by road with parallel roads on the banks, and there are bridge crossing points within the segment.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses

Segment	Ownership	River Mile	Distance in Miles	Square Miles	Acres
Huntington Creek					
	Private	0-0.56	0.56	.280	179.20
	Forest Service	0.56-0.93	0.37	.185	118.40
	Private	0.93-1.68	0.75	0.375	240.00
	Forest Service	1.68-13.35	11.67	5.835	3734.4
	Private	13.35-13.63	0.28	0.140	89.6
	Forest Service	13.63-14.52	0.89	0.445	284.80
	Private	14.52-14.59	0.07	0.035	22.40
	Forest	14.59-	0.53	0.265	169.60

Segment	Ownership	River Mile	Distance in Miles	Square Miles	Acres
	Service	15.12			
	Private	15.12-15.71	0.59	0.295	188.80
	Forest Service	15.71-16.01	0.3	0.115	73.60
	BLM	16.01-16.32	0.31	0.155	99.20
	Private	16.32-16.55	0.23	0.115	73.60
	BLM	16.55-16.76	0.21	0.105	67.20
	Private	16.76-16.83	0.07	0.035	22.40
	BLM	16.83-16.84	0.01	0.005	3.20
	Private	16.84-16.95	0.11	0.055	35.20
	BLM	16.85-17.08	0.13	0.065	41.69
	Private	17.08-17.37	0.29	0.145	92.80
	BLM	17.37-17.80	0.43	0.215	137.60
	Private	17.80-18.34	0.54	0.270	172.80
	State	18.34-19.30	0.96	0.480	307.20
		Total=	19.3		5975 ac.

Readers Note: The study area boundaries displayed in Appendix A, Suitability Evaluation Reports, do not represent actual Wild and Scenic River boundaries, but the area of interest for eligible river segments. It should be noted that of the eligible rivers studied, 14 of the 86 river segments appear to include portions of private land, at the end of segments near the National Forest boundary. These typically short river stretches (1/4 to 4 miles long) were included in the eligibility study as part of the river segment length because they brought the river segment to a logical terminus at a confluence with a larger stream, also contained the ORV's of the National Forest portion of the segment, or National Forest land was located within 1/4 mile of these segments. These lengths are also included in the tables found in this suitability study. The magnitude of this effect is small, representing approximately 22 miles total over 14 segments, or less than 3 percent of the total mileage in the study. The final decision will apply only to river segments located on National Forest System lands. The dashed lines on the individual river maps represent the approximate 1/4 mile river corridor boundary of the river segment under study. If Congress chooses to add any of the recommended river segments to the National Wild and Scenic River System, the Forest Service would be required to develop Comprehensive River Management Plan (CRMP). Section 3(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires the establishment of detailed boundaries (an average of not more than 320 acres per river mile). At that time, the boundary would be adjusted to exclude private, State, or other Federal agency land located at the end or beginning of the river segment. Congress could include private lands (in holdings) within the boundaries of the designated river area, however, management restrictions would apply only to public lands.

The Manti-La Sal National Forest and the Price Field Office of the BLM coordinated the beginning and ending points of Huntington Creek eligible river segment since it did not make sense to abruptly stop at the Forest boundary. The Forest agreed to take care of any analysis that would be made of the BLM portion of Huntington Creek.

The 5.65 miles from the Huntington Power Plant inlet to the National Forest System boundary is privately and publicly owned with a short section managed by the BLM. These parcels of land (including a ½-mile buffer zone on either side of the river corridor) are owned by the following entities:

PacifiCorp (UP&L Co.) One Utah Center Suite 2100 201 South Main Salt Lake City, UT 84111-0021	US Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management (BLM) 324 South State St. Suite 301 Salt Lake City, UT 84111-2303
Nevada Electric Investment Co. P.O. Box 230 Las Vegas, NV 89151	State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA)
The Malcolm McKinnon Estate Zions First National Bank Trustee Salt Lake City, Utah 84111	Emery County 75 East Main Street Castle Dale, UT 84513
Dick N. & Guinevere A. Nielson C/o Kristie N. Ligon 4819 Mandel St. Houston, TX 77006	C.O.P. Coal Development Corp. 3753 South State Salt Lake City, UT 84115
Huntington Haven LTD Land Co. Von S. Pratt M.D. P.O. Box 879 Gunnison, UT 84634	Mike H. Carson 1625 N. Freedom Blvd. Provo, UT 84604
Steven E. and Lezlee C. Jones 555 E. 4450 N. Provo, UT 84604	David G. and Julie G. Robinson 2368 Parley's Circle Salt Lake City, UT 84109

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – Coal: Three mines are located along the Huntington River corridor. Genwal Resources and Deer Creek mines operate on the East Mountain side of the drainage, while Coop operates their mine on the Gentry Mountain side of the drainage. A total of approximately six million tons are mined from these facilities each year. Each mine anticipates additional “shoreline” development and depends on water for its operations.

The Genwal mine currently employs 67. Employees utilize State Route (SR) 31 and the Crandall Canyon road (Forest Road 248) to access mine facilities. Approximately 50 vehicles use this road each day. The mine facilities are located within National Forest System boundaries. Currently 75 to 100 trucks haul coal from the Genwal mine site daily. Future mining will expand to the new South Crandall Lease. Production is expected to increase from 1.5 million tons per year to 2 million tons per year. Truck haulage is expected to increase to 250 to 300 trucks per day.

The employee base at the Deer Creek mine is currently 305. This number will remain constant into the foreseeable future. Mine facilities are accessed via SR-31 and the Deer Creek Canyon road (owned and maintained by Emery County). Traffic is particularly heavy during shift changes when traffic from the power plant combines with the mine traffic. The Deer Creek mine has recently been granted a permit to develop a portal in Rilda Canyon where it currently has a fan and delivery access. The County road will be upgraded and paved. Turn and acceleration lanes on SR-31 have already been installed. Access to the Rilda Canyon portal will be year-round. Coal production at the Deer Creek mine exceeds four million tons annually.

The Coop mine employs approximately 146 management and labor personnel. Traffic accesses both Trail Canyon and Bear Canyon (approximately 75 vehicles per day). This number is expected to increase in the future as the mine expands its operations. Expansion will include new construction of facilities and increased production. At this time, approximately 10 to 25 trucks transport coal from the Coop mine each day. As many as 20 to 40 private trucks haul coal each day in the wintertime.

Electrical Power: The Huntington Power Plant, owned by PacifiCorp, is a major direct and indirect employer in the area and an important part of the electric generation base for the western United States. The plant is located at the bottom of Huntington Canyon. PacifiCorp has long-held interests in Huntington Canyon and relies exclusively on both the main channel, Left Fork of Huntington Creek, and their tributaries to deliver water critical to Huntington Power Plant operations.

Coalbed Methane: Coalbed methane gas has been produced commercially for just over a decade in Utah. During this period production has grown dramatically, reaching over 100 billion cubic feet (Bcf) in 2002 alone. The cumulative production from the four principle fields stands at 412 Bcf. So far, production is limited to a relatively small area at the southwest edge of the Uinta Basin and the eastern slope of the Wasatch Plateau in Carbon and Emery Counties. However, significant coal deposits exist across many other parts of the region. Most of these have good potential for coalbed methane development, but are yet untested.

Gas: Presently, Chevron Texaco has natural gas wells on both sides of Huntington Creek. Associated with these wells are natural gas and water gathering lines, power lines, and other wellhead equipment needed for production. The company has plans to expand development for natural gas production in the Huntington Canyon area. New wells have either already been permitted or are in the process of being permitted. These new wells would require the construction of additional gathering and powerlines. Current and planned gathering or flowlines run parallel to the creek and cross the creek at different locations.

Without the planned expansion, there would be lost revenues from potential wells and lost investment in leases. Existing facilities could be affected if additional development and production does not occur. The flowlines downstream of the development in Huntington Canyon have been sized to handle additional volumes in anticipation of future production. It is expected that some cost would be recovered from new wells added to the gathering system. If no new wells were drilled, the cost would be shared by fewer wells possibly causing premature abandonment.

Water Resources Development – Water resources and their development are the lifeblood of Emery County. The annual precipitation rate in the valley, where the population is concentrated, is about eight inches. This places the area in a semi-arid climate classification. It becomes obvious that supplemental water resources must come from somewhere else. The solution has been diversions from streams that originate on the Wasatch Plateau and from Huntington Creek. Annual precipitation at the higher elevations is about 25 inches, most of which is in the form of snow. Irreversible commitments or restrictions to water use could be costly and prevent the fulfillment of basic community survival and development needs.

Over-Appropriation of Existing Water Supplies

Much of the west Colorado River Basin is over-appropriated and, as a result, late season shortages exist in many of the agricultural areas. The San Rafael River, which is intricately tied to Huntington Creek, is the most over-appropriated drainage in the Basin.

Table 2. Perfected water rights versus the yields of the major drainages within the West Colorado River Basin.

Water Rights versus Yield			
Perfected Water Rights			
Drainage	Yield (acre foot)	Use	Acre Foot
Price	138,000	Irrigation	80,566
		M&I	64,147
		Subtotal	144,713
San Rafael	233,000	Irrigation	267,003
		M&I	41,128

		Subtotal	308,131
Dirty Devil	147,000	Irrigation	57,059
		M&I	27,864
		Subtotal	84,923
Escalante	86,000	Irrigation	14,616
		M&I	4,207
		Subtotal	18,823
Paria	21,000	Irrigation	6,644
		M&I	5,966
		Subtotal	12,610

Source: Table 5-21 from the “West Colorado River Basin Water Plan”.

Figures include some water rights based on high flows that only occasionally occur.

The economy and communities on the Huntington Creek drainage depends upon the regulation of limited water resources. Upstream flow regulation is constant except during brief periods of spring runoff when flows from tributaries below the reservoirs exceed the capabilities of the down stream users to utilize the water. During summer months, the flows from upstream storage reservoirs are regulated to meet the demands of industrial, agricultural, and municipal users. During the spring and winter months, storage reservoirs are filled and flows are reduced to meet demands of industrial, municipal, and stock water users.

Records from the past few years substantiate the regulated uses. The average annual flow in Huntington Creek is about 51,000 acre-foot (Utah State Engineer’s Office). Flows and diversions over the last few years are shown below:

Table 3. Flows and Diversions in Huntington Creek.

Year	Annual Flows	Total Diversions Ac-ft.	Industrial Use Ac-ft.	% Industry
1991	50,000	50,000	8,600	17
1992	43,900	41,400	8,820	21
1994	44,900	44,400	10,880	25
1995	73,700	70,000	8,354	12
1996	66,100	66,100	10,924	17
1998	84,100	82,600	9,142	11
1999	75,250	73,500	10,950	15
2000	53,500	48,000	12,016	25

Flows in the river during a typical year (1991) are as follows:

Table 4. Flows in Huntington Creek during 1991.

Month	Flow Rate (cubic feet/second)			Flow acre-feet)
	Min	Max	Mean	
October	25	73	45	3,400
November	13	30	22	1,812
December	12	24	17	1,864
January	9	19	14	1,699
February	7	22	11	1,432
March	13	22	16	1,838
April	16	49	32	2,486
May	48	185	115	7,632
June	132	234	188	11,642
July	64	178	92	6,444

August	48	102	66	4,882
September	41	109	65	4,944

It is impossible to consider management of Huntington Creek and its tributaries as an isolated river segment. The design of water storage facilities, delivery systems (canals and pipelines), and the water demand of the two coal-fired power plants (Hunter and Huntington) has created a system that incorporates all of the San Rafael River system. The depletion of stored water in Electric Lake and the subsequent leasing of water from Huntington/Cleveland Irrigation Company members have, in effect, placed water that will be used by the power company in the four reservoirs on the Left Fork of Huntington Creek and in Joes Valley Reservoir on Cottonwood Creek. These transactions also affect the value and use of water stored in Millsite Reservoir on Ferron Creek.

Five privately owned reservoirs impound water at the head of Huntington drainage. Several smaller man-made earth and dam reservoirs currently exist or have existed in the area. Through a series of canals and diversions, water from the top of this drainage can be diverted to Carbon, Emery, or Sanpete Counties. Huntington Cleveland Irrigation Company has multiple diversions for industrial, municipal, and agricultural use.

Additionally, in scoping comments, the Utah Division of Water Resources identified two potential water developments upstream from the eligible segment.

Russell Site (T14S R06E Section 24, 121 ft high, 3,325 ac-ft capacity). This site is located downstream of Electric Lake on the studied Huntington Creek Wild and Scenic River segment. Electric Lake has been leaking into the nearby coal mines and may have to be replaced or supplemented in the future if leaks cannot be plugged.

Millset Creek (T13S R06E Section 27, 69 ft high, 1,060 ac-ft capacity). USBR site just upstream of Electric Lake and the Huntington Creek Wild and Scenic River segment. The State Engineer performed preliminary design and cost estimates.

From 1974 through the present, flows in Huntington Creek have been artificially regulated to the point that what is now considered “normal” flow is actually a reflection of how PacifiCorp has operated the Huntington Power Plant. Prior to the creation of Electric Lake, flows were between 4 and 6 cubic feet per second (cfs). Since that time, PacifiCorp has been permitted to change flows to between 12 and 15 cfs. In 2003, however, an extended drought combined with the unforeseen loss of water from Electric Lake required flows to be reduced to 40 percent of the new “normal” levels. This was done in cooperation and with permission from the Forest Service. Until the water loss and drought issues are remedied, this flexibility to control river flow is essential for PacifiCorp to maintain its operations.

At one time, a small hydroelectric generator was installed at the base of Electric Lake Dam and has since been decommissioned. Although there are no current plans for using Huntington River for hydroelectric generation, future economic conditions or technological advances could make that option viable or necessary.

A future impoundment along Huntington Creek is actively being sought by the Huntington Cleveland Irrigation Company in order to better control, distribute, and preserve water for its owners. Engineering studies have been completed on one reservoir site, and others are currently being considered. Although any potential impoundment likely would be below the stretch of river currently under consideration, WSR status upstream could have a direct impact on the value and use of water shares administered by Huntington Cleveland Irrigation Company. PacifiCorp has no immediate plans to construct future impoundments along Huntington Creek. However, because of the current water loss at Electric Lake, it is not possible to predict with certainty what actions PacifiCorp may need to take in the future to secure a long-term water source for the Huntington Power Plant.

Castle Valley Special Service District and North Emery Water Users Special District currently have water transmission lines and springs that are used for culinary water supply and transmission in the Huntington

Canyon area. Some of these springs and lines have been in place and used by Huntington City since the mid 1920s. These lines run through Huntington Canyon and terminate at the springs located in Rilda, Big Bear, Little Bear, and Tie Fork Canyons. In addition, a surface water treatment plant is being constructed to use water diverted from Huntington Creek. These springs and lines are important to North Emery, and the communities of Huntington, Cleveland, Lawrence, and Elmo. They provide the only source of drinking water for these communities. Future growth in these communities will require new structures and upgrades of these facilities.

The ability to transfer and sell water rights during drought years is especially critical. Power generating plants, which distribute power throughout western states, are dependent on water and the ability to purchase water from others. An extended drought combined with unforeseen loss of water from Electric Lake has required flexibility for river flows which are essential for PacifiCorp to maintain its power generating operations.

WSR designation could impact the potential of federally assisted water resource development projects. Salinity projects are being developed in the area with the goal of reducing salinity in the Colorado River by providing pressurized water delivery systems to local agricultural users. These systems will significantly reduce water loss from seepage, evaporation and over-application. Salinity projects are typically federally subsidized. Without that subsidy, local farmers are unlikely to pursue widespread use of these systems. To date \$28.6 million has been funded, with additional projects in various stages of planning or implementation (see appendix B).

PacifiCorp “has investigated construction of a lower site reservoir to better regulate water from this drainage. This has been suggested as one of several ways to obtain additional water supplies for a possible fourth unit at the Hunter power plant. This would indicate keeping open the possibility of future impoundments and making certain that WSR planning does not foreclose that possibility,” (David Sharp, PacifiCorp, July 11, 2003).

Although water is over appropriated, the flows are regulated to maintain an instream flow for the Blue Ribbon Fishery.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – State Route 31 parallels Huntington Creek throughout the canyon. Along the route, dirt roads lead to private property. It is probable if coal development expands, that new highway access points may be needed. This means additional creek crossings with attendant construction, bridges, diversions, and river corridor improvements. Much of the economy in Emery and Sanpete Counties is tied to workers who are employed at coal mines and power plants in this area.

Public roads access the Deer Creek, Coop, Genwal, and Larsen Rigby mines, and Rilda, Mill Fork, Tie Fork, Nuck Woodward, Meeting House, and Trail canyons. A major gas line crosses the corridor in the upper end of the canyon. Gathering gas lines are present on upper and lower ends of the river segment. Municipal water transmission lines parallel the river for approximately 7 miles on the lower portion of the river segment.

Grazing Activities – Grazing occurs within Huntington Canyon. Grazing allotments under permit within the canyon include the Gentry Allotment, for cattle; and Candland, Trough Springs, Monument Peak, Crandall Ridge, Crandall Canyon, East Mountain, Trail Mountain, Horse Creek, and Bear Ridge sheep allotments.

Recreation Activities – After Electric Lake was built, significantly altering the flows in the main channel, upper Huntington Creek developed into a blue-ribbon trout stream. Many anglers travel from throughout the West to test their flies on the savvy trout. At the same time brown trout began to flourish in the enhanced stream, the Yellowstone cutthroat trout were established above the dam in Electric Lake.

For a period of time after whirling disease affected every other State-owned broodery for Yellowstone cutthroat trout, Electric Lake was the unique source of this species for all plantings throughout the State.

Huntington Creek is the main attraction in the watershed. The creek and adjacent terrain serve as base areas for exceptional recreation opportunities, such as camping, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, all-terrain vehicle use, driving for pleasure, cross-country skiing, and rock climbing. A well-developed system of trails access both federal and private properties through most side canyons draining into Huntington Canyon. The Castle Valley Ridge Trail system is located within the corridor of the watercourse.

State Route 31 has been designated a State Scenic Byway, a National Forest Service Scenic Byway, and most recently, a National Scenic Byway, “The Energy Loop: Huntington and Eccles Canyons National Scenic Byway”. Stuart Guard Station is a CCC era facility currently used as a visitor center. The visitor center provides area interpretation of some of the history of the Huntington Canyon.

Other Resource Activities – Spruce throughout the Huntington Creek corridor are dead or dying and create a potential hazard for campers and those traveling the Scenic Byway. These trees will eventually be removed.

Special Designations – State Route 31 that runs parallel to Huntington Creek is a National Forest Scenic Byway and a National Scenic Byway (DOT designated). Huntington Creek has been designated as a Blue Ribbon Fishery by the State of Utah. The Utah Division of Water Quality, Department of Drinking Water data has also identified Huntington Creek as a drinking water source protection zone.

Socio-Economic Environment – A very large part of the economic base of Carbon, Emery, and Sanpete Counties comes from electrical generation power plants, providing those power plants with fuel, and auxiliary businesses associated with the workforce employed by companies conducting business along the corridor. Apart from local needs is the rapid growth in electrical demand along the Wasatch Front. PacifiCorp’s coal-fired power plants, including the Huntington Power Plant, are the primary source of electricity for the Wasatch Front due, in part, to existing transmission facilities from those plants. At this point, there are insufficient transmission facilities leading from other plants to meet growth needs. Rolling brownouts would be expected along the Wasatch Front if regulations were tightened controlling water use and limiting Huntington Power Plant’s ability to produce power.

Most of Emery County’s employment is in the mining, government, trade, transportation, and utilities industries. (Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget 2003) The mining, trade, and utilities industries rely on water to develop and sustain their business.

Figure 1. Non-agricultural Employment by Major Industry: 2001.

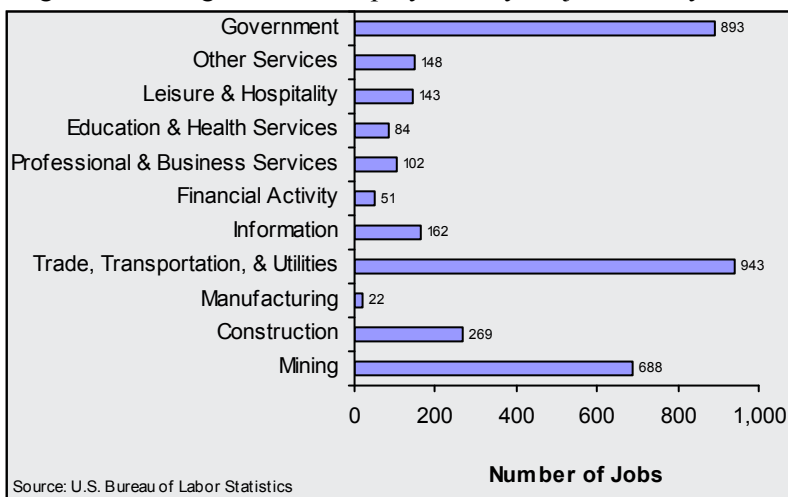
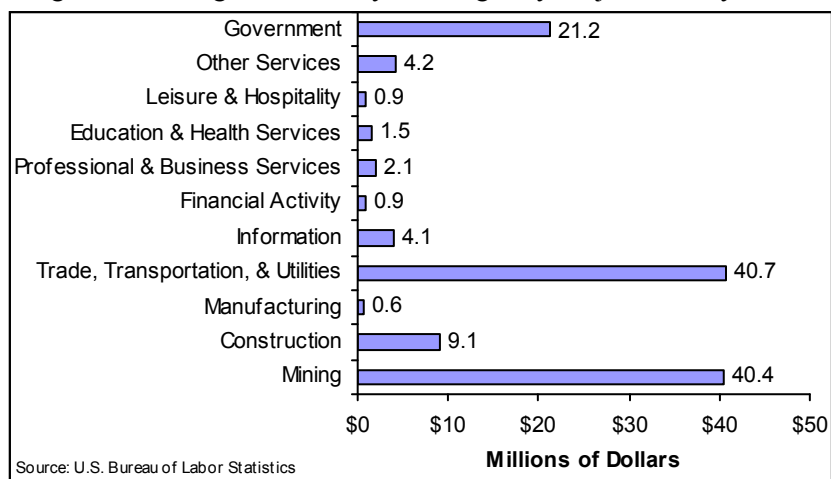


Figure 2. Non-agricultural Payroll Wages by Major Industry: 2001.



PacifiCorp power plants in Emery County generate 17,400 megawatts annually. At a sale value of \$20/megawatt, the annual revenues would be \$350,000,000. They provide work for 750 employees (including their mining operations) with an annual payroll of over \$64,000,000. The addition of the proposed Hunter #4 project would add an additional 350 needed jobs in Emery County (see Appendix A prepared by the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget).

The following reports support the important uses of water to employment and income:

1997 Agriculture Report for Emery County

Acres irrigated - 55,000

- Value of Farms & Improvements - \$100,000,000
- Annual Crop Sales - \$1,300,000
- Number of Cattle and Calves - 28,500
- Annual Livestock Sales - \$5,000,000
- Total Annual Agricultural Sales - \$11,000,000

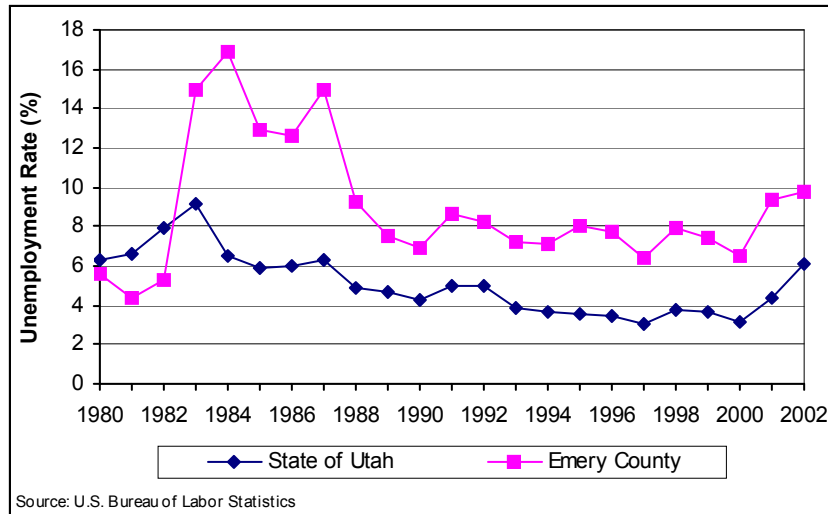
Table 5. Municipal Water Demand and Income.

	Huntington	Cleveland	Elmo	North Emery	Total
Municipal - Population	2,131	508	368	1,400	4,400
Number of Connections	856	185	129	460	1,630
Annual Municipal Water Income	\$77,000	\$16,600	\$11,600	\$145,000	\$250,000

*See Appendix B for a report on economics and water projects.

It is difficult to develop a sustainable economy in an arid rural community without the continued ability to use, transfer, and sell water. The unemployment rate in Emery County (9.8% compared to 6% for the State) would continue to increase if water development projects were curtailed.

Figure 3. Unemployment Rate



Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – At a minimum, the river corridor would extend for the length of the river segment and one quarter mile in width from each bank of the river. That is, the corridor would run approximately 19.66 miles in length by ½ mile wide.

Land Survey: The cost of surveying the private land adjacent to the river corridor would be approximately \$60,000.

Land acquisition: Huntington Creek, from Electric Lake to the Forest boundary, is on National Forest System lands. Private and State lands beyond the Forest boundary may be available for purchase or trade. Some of the private lands within the corridor may not be for sale because of the water delivery function for which they were purchased.

There are a total of 5.65 miles of watercourse from the Forest boundary to the Huntington Power Plant's inlet; 4.25 miles are on private land. An estimate of the cost of creek side land, 4.25 miles in length, based on the value of land of this type is approximately \$1,500 an acre. Final costs cannot be determined at this time.

Developing a Management Plan: Developing a management plan would require the expertise of a number of specialists in soils, hydrology, wildlife, recreation, archaeology, and botany. The plan would take approximately three months to complete. Developmental cost is approximately \$85,000.

Development of Lands and Facilities: No development, expansion, or modifications of facilities are currently anticipated by the Manti-La Sal National Forest in Huntington Canyon. However, the Forest maintains the recreational developments that it has within the corridor.

User Capacities – No formal study to establish use or capacity has been made. The cost of such a study is estimated at \$29,000.

Resource Protection: Maintenance functions on this WSR segment would include inspection/replacement of signs, monitoring of riparian/aquatic habitat, and invasive species monitoring. Law enforcement would also be an expense. The estimated cost is \$45,500 annually.

Enhancement projects: Control of invasive plants is estimated at \$10,000 annually.

Reporting to Congress on WSR: An annual report to Congress to highlight use and management activity would take an individual five days at a cost of approximately \$2,000.

First year start up costs on WSR: Approximately \$239,000 (does not include any land acquisition costs).

Additional Annual Operating Costs: Approximately \$57,500.

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

Neither the state of Utah nor Emery County supports any designation and has said that they would not participate in any cost sharing of this proposal.

The Utah Governor's Office of Planning and Budget wrote:

The state supports the statements of the Emery County Commission concerning participation in the management of the river corridor, and has no interest in participating in any efforts, through funding or otherwise, to manage the Huntington Creek corridor under provisions of the Act. (August 2004)

Emery County Commissioners wrote:

Emery County opposes Wild and Scenic River designation of river segments within Emery County and counties downstream from Emery County. We want it to be unmistakable from comments provided to the Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service in their respective Wild and Scenic River (WSR) planning processes that our position has remained clear and consistent.” (July 2004)

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any local zoning and/or land use controls that appear to conflict with protection of river values.

The State and county governments have no desire, nor do they currently have the authority or ability to protect the outstandingly remarkable scenery value on non-federal land. It is highly unlikely that either the State or counties would pass zoning ordinances that would protect the outstandingly remarkable scenery or recreation values on non-federal land. County planning documents do not support a Wild and Scenic River designation.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Congressmen Jim Matheson and Chris Cannon, the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, the Governor's Office of Public Lands Policy Coordination, and the Emery County Commission have all written in opposition to designation. The majority of county residents, water users, and individuals who have commented oppose designation. The preponderance of comments from attendees at the Forest Plan Revision public meetings held in Castle Dale was against designation. Environmental groups and a number of individuals have written or spoken in support of designation.

These same State and local agencies and individuals that oppose designation support continued management as stated in the current Forest Plan. They prefer to see maintenance assumed under authorities that are more flexible to changing needs and water interests than can be afforded from designation.

The Governor's Office of Planning and Budget wrote:

The State acknowledges the following statements contained in the analysis:

‘The current management of Huntington Creek by the Forest Service, BLM, State of Utah, and many private interests has allowed industry to develop while maintaining the outstandingly remarkable recreation and scenic values of the corridor.’

‘There is no interest from the counties, water users or energy companies to participate in funding efforts to manage the Huntington Creek corridor as a Wild and Scenic River and the Forest does not receive adequate funding to purchase easements, provide improvements, and monitor a river segment designated under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The Emery County Commission considers participation in administration of such designation unjustified and unwise.’

The State strongly concurs with the statement that management of the creek by the parties has kept the creek in good condition, and suggests that the following two additional points are pertinent to the analysis: (1) Huntington Creek is a source of culinary water; therefore, it currently receives a level of protection that it would not otherwise be afforded, (2) the BLM Price Field Office, in its recently updated Resource Management Plan, did not find the segment of Huntington Creek crossing BLM land to be eligible for Wild and Scenic Rives designation; thus, there is a lack of consistency with other agency plans.

The State concludes that neither Huntington Creek nor the Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek meets the suitability standard of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and reserves comment on the eligibility of the creek based upon the comments above and the provisions of the state law. (August, 2004)

The State of Utah expressed concerns designation would restrict the state’s ability to maintain or expand the highway.

Congressman Chris Cannon wrote:

I write to inform you of my opposition to Wild and Scenic River (W&SR) designation of river segments within Carbon and Emery Counties...

Additionally, W&SR designation is not necessary to protect the values of river segments in question. Existing management options are available to effectively protect those values.

Finally, W&SR designation could be devastating on a socio-economic basis. The limited water resource in Emery and other counties are already over allocated. Any interruption of these resources will have a far reaching impact locally, regionally and, in the case of electrical generation, nationally. Any such designation could have a harmful consequence on water rights and proper land management, could cripple agriculture, and have serious impacts on the economic viability of the local economy. (August 25, 2004)

Congressman Jim Matheson wrote:

Local officials in Emery County are particularly concerned about the proposal to designate river segments within the County as a Wild and Scenic River because of the potential impact that such a designation could have on water rights and land management across the West. Throughout Emery County and much of Utah, a large system of canals, ditches and impoundments save and move water from one watershed to another, sending water where it is most needed. The ability to transfer and sell water rights during drought years is especially critical. There is question as to what effect Wild and Scenic River designation could have on this practice, given that the rivers in question are a part of this larger water system.

I hope that you will work with the local officials to ensure that no actions taken on behalf of your agency will encumber the ability of Emery County to provide water resources for its residents. (August 3, 2004)

The Emery County Commission wrote:

Emery County opposes Wild and Scenic River designation of river segments within Emery County and counties downstream from Emery County.

We believe that the identified river segments are not suitable for designation. W&SR designation is not necessary to protect the values of river segments in question. Existing management options are available to effectively protect those values.

Finally, W&SR designation would be devastating on a socio-economic basis. What limited water resources Emery County possesses are already over allocated. Any interruption of these resources will have far reaching impact locally, regionally and, in the case of electrical generation nationally. (July 8, 2004)

The Huntington-Cleveland Irrigation Company wrote:

In reviewing the proposed area for any of the three possible designations it is the opinion of Hunting Cleveland Irrigation Company (HCIC) that none of these designations would be acceptable to us...

Any restrictions placed upon us could have catastrophic results to the already difficult distribution and delivery of our water. HCIC feels Congress didn't have areas like this in mind when they created the Wild and Scenic Rivers act due to the fact that it would totally devastate the local economy & way of life. When the Act was passed in 1968, a number of river systems were classified within the Act itself. Those river systems (see section 1273 & 1274 of the original act) were large rivers. Huntingtons' river system doesn't really fit this profile. HCIC feels that we have been as good of stewards of the environment as is possible and not maintaining our system would be more detrimental to the environment than the current course. We strongly urge careful consideration to this process, as decisions made here can be very devastating to people in this drainage for a long time. (June 25, 2003)

The Castle Valley Special Service District wrote:

Castle Valley Special Service District and North Emery Water Users Special District currently have water transmission lines and springs that are used for culinary water supply and transmission in the Huntington Canyon area. Some of these springs and lines have been in place and used by Huntington City since the mid 1920's. These lines run up through Huntington Canyon and terminate at the springs located in Rilda, Big Bear, Little Bear and Tie Fork Canyons.

These springs and lines are of the utmost importance to North Emery and the communities of Huntington, Cleveland and Elmo. They provide the only source of drinking water for these communities. Future growth in these communities will require new structures and upgrades of these facilities. We emphasize that we will need to maintain and service the existing facilities and provide for future expansion. This needs to be accomplished without the impediments and controls that Wild and Scenic River Designation may impose upon these facilities and our operations. (September 22, 2003)

PacifiCorp wrote:

...PacifiCorp has long-held interests in Huntington Canyon and relies exclusively on both the main channel and left fork of Huntington Creek, and their tributaries, to deliver water that is critical to Huntington Plant operations at the bottom of the canyon. The

Huntington Plant, in turn, is a major direct and indirect employer in the area and an important part of the electric generation base for the western United States. The importance of continued operations of the Huntington Plant cannot be over-emphasized and PacifiCorp, by necessity, will oppose any action that impacts its ability to operate the Huntington Plant in the manner that it has in the past or that restricts future plant operations. At the same time, PacifiCorp recognizes the important recreational and other values that are associated with the Huntington Creek and has expended considerable resources to make sure that its operations do not adversely impact those values. PacifiCorp has done very well at this effort for more than thirty years.

...Based on the information provided in this letter, PacifiCorp believes that Huntington Creek will not benefit from W&SR status in any category and that existing land use controls and operating practices are sufficient to protect the values associated with Huntington Canyon for all to enjoy while also protecting the critical role that Huntington Creek and Huntington Canyon play in the area's economy. (July 11, 2003)

In a later letter, PacifiCorp wrote:

...PacifiCorp is particularly concerned that the EIS and all future land use documents not impair our ability to exercise valid and existing rights to access and develop coal leases, including the right to drill, explore, extract, mine and remove coal and to locate and construct necessary facilities, structures, buildings, improvements, etc. (Dec 23, 2004)

Other organizations such as Trout Unlimited, The Wilderness Society, The Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, Red Rock Forests, The Grand Canyon Trust, the Three Forests Coalition, and the Utah Environmental Congress support designation.

Trout Unlimited wrote:

The three creeks currently under suitability review for Wild and Scenic River designation (Fish Creek, including Gooseberry Creek, Huntington Creek and the Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek) are among the most highly valued trout fisheries in Utah and, accordingly, are of great interest to TU... Because of their recreational and scenic value, they contribute significantly to local and regional economies. These streams merit Forest Service care and protection.

...Even if you determine they are not suitable for W&S designation, TU encourages you to take every appropriate step to protect and preserve the recreational, scenic, wildlife and other values identified in your eligibility analysis. (July 7, 2004)

A coalition of environmental groups wrote:

We are greatly concerned that the Manti-La Sal National Forest's current analysis of eligibility and suitability under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act is mistakenly excluding numerous deserving rivers and river segments and needs to be redone. We support each of these segments receiving designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. ...This river should receive designation as a scenic river. (July 15, 2004)

The Utah Environmental Congress wrote:

All rivers, not just a select few should be evaluated and final recommendations made in the Forest Plan revision process. It is arbitrary, capricious, and inconsistent with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, NFMA and the APA to make determinations regarding a hand-picked few eligible rivers while ignoring others in the revision process. (December 22, 2004) Comments from local government, power/energy companies, water conservancy districts and residents were strongly opposed to WSR designation of Huntington Creek. Among the variety of reasons for opposing designation were: the large amount of private land along the river corridor; the significance of agriculture and municipal water resources that would most probably need to be developed; the ability to secure federal funding for salinity projects; the need to

widen provide additional access and maintain Hwy 31 which follows and crosses the river; the fact that the water is artificially controlled by 6 reservoirs; potential restrictions on future power plant operations or new structures and upgrades of facilities the conservancy districts have planned; over appropriated water; and the ability to transfer and sell water rights during drought years.

Comments from individuals and groups living outside Emery favor WSR designation of Huntington Creek. Among the reasons cited are: the Blue Ribbon fishery; a belief that this is a premier destination for the entire area; the system should be view as a larger system that supports a variety of water uses to preserve resources for future generations. Red Rock Forests is committed to assisting the Manti-La Sal National forest by providing volunteers and partnering in managing any and all segments that are designated as Wild and Scenic within the forest. All of the three organized campaigns supported a positive finding suitability finding for this segment.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Emery County planning documents do not support the designation of Wild and Scenic Rivers for this segment.

Designation would not be consistent with PacifiCorp development plans, the Huntington/Cleveland Irrigation Company, Castle Valley Special Service District, Genwal, and local agricultural interests.

Most resource activities currently emphasized and allowed under the current Forest Plan are compatible with a Recreational classification under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. However, because this is an energy corridor and primary water source for Emery County and industries doing business along the corridor, their ability to impound, divert and manipulate water for economic development and sustenance could be curtailed under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Wild and Scenic River designation could also impact potential federally assisted water resource development projects above or down stream from the river segment. Salinity projects are being developed in the area with the goal of reducing the salinity in the Colorado River by providing pressurized water delivery systems to local agricultural users.

Chapter III page 55 of the 1986 Forest Plan specifies that Huntington Creek be managed for the most part with emphasis on semi-primitive recreation use.

Management emphasis is for providing semi-primitive motorized and non motorized recreation opportunities. Recreation opportunities such as hiking, horseback riding, hunting, cross-country skiing, vehicular travel etc., are available...

Investments in compatible resource uses such as timber harvest, livestock grazing, wildlife habitat, mineral exploration and development, special uses, etc., may occur as long as they meet the planned VQO and maintain a high quality semi-primitive recreation opportunity. When the approved activity ceases, roads, structures, and appurtenances will be rehabilitated as closely as possible to reflect the previous, undisturbed condition.

Other smaller emphasis areas along the river corridor include management for general winter range, range, leasable mineral development, key winter range, and municipal water supply.

Compared to the Forest Plan language above, the following wording from the Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council Questions & Answers shows that activities allowed under a scenic or recreational classification are very similar to direction in the Forest Plan. The major discrepancy is the ability to manipulate water.

Federal lands within the boundaries of river areas designated and classified as scenic are not withdrawn under the Act from the mining and mineral leasing laws. Existing valid claims or leases within the river boundary remain in effect, and activities may be allowed

subject to regulations that minimize surface disturbance, water sedimentation, pollution, and visual impairment. For rivers designated **scenic** or **recreational** filing of new mining claims or mineral leases is allowed but is subject to reasonable access and regulations that minimize surface disturbance, water sedimentation, pollution and visual impairment.

Harvesting practices on federal lands located within WSR corridors must be designed to help achieve land management objectives consistent with the protection and enhancement of the values which caused the river to be added to the National System. WSR designation is not likely to significantly affect timber harvesting or logging practices beyond existing limitations to protect riparian zones and wetlands which are guided by other legal mandates and planning direction. Federal timber management activities outside the corridor will be designed to not adversely affect values which caused the river to be designated.

Generally, existing agricultural practices (e.g., livestock grazing activities) and related structures would not be affected by designation. Guidelines issued by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Interior indicate that livestock grazing and agricultural practices should be similar in nature and intensity to those present in the area at the time of designation to maintain the values for which the river was designated. (Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council Questions & Answers)

Designation of Huntington Creek into the Wild and Scenic Rivers System would likely have a great effect on current activities within the river corridor.

- Designation would foreclose the following types of activities in or adjacent to the river corridor: future diversions, transmission lines, water conduits or storage capability. From the WSR Act, Section 7 (a), "...no department or agency of the United States shall assist by loan, grant, license, or otherwise in the construction of any water resources project that would have a direct and adverse effect on the values for which such river was established.
- Designation could limit the Forest Service's options for future management activities. "Resource management practices will be limited to those which are necessary for protection, conservation, rehabilitation or enhancement of the river area resources". Section 12 (a) of the Act instructs the agency having authority over the river segment designated to enter into management agreements with appropriate entities for the planning, administration and management of designated lands. "Particular attention shall be given to scheduled timber harvesting, road construction and similar activities which might be contrary to the purposes of this Act.
- Designation might enhance riparian area management and interpretation.

The 1986 Forest Plan is inconsistent with designation in that it does not prohibit water uses or development.

(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

The BLM did not identify the river segment as an eligible river. Both upper and lower impoundments segment this river. This segment would have more basin integrity if the entire stretch were found eligible.

River system or basin integrity is considered to include water quantity, water quality, and timing of flows in relation to natural conditions. In this reach of Huntington Creek, the quantity and quality of water are comparable to a natural condition.

Huntington Creek is a perennial tributary of the San Rafael River. However, from a river system perspective, Huntington Creek does not contribute natural quantity or quality of water to the San Rafael River. The flow from Huntington Creek contributes little to the river system of the San Rafael River. Timing may be similar to natural conditions, since some spring runoff from Huntington Creek is contributed to the San Rafael. However, once the irrigation season begins the duration of these flows is shortened and very little of the flow in Huntington Creek makes it to the San Rafael River.

The hydrology and possibly ecology of the San Rafael River watershed has been altered by diversions and irrigation practices throughout its drainage area, including those in Huntington Creek. State policy directs that water quality in the stream on National Forest System lands may not be degraded unless determined to be allowable through an interagency and public planning process. This stream segment is protected by the State's anti-degradation policy, which states:

Waters whose existing quality is better than the established standards for the designated uses will be maintained at high quality unless it is determined by the [Utah Water Quality] Board, after appropriate intergovernmental coordination and public participation in concert with the Utah continuing planning process, that allowing lower water quality is necessary to accommodate important economic or social development in the area in which the waters are located. However, existing in stream water uses shall be maintained and protected. No water quality degradation is allowable which would interfere with or become injurious to existing in-stream water uses.

From the Forest boundary upstream, Huntington Creek is not listed as water quality impaired.

Huntington Canyon is a source of regional energy and is a major utility provider to western homes and businesses. PacifiCorp's coal fired power plants, including the Huntington Power Plant, are the primary sources of electricity for the Wasatch Front. The water from the canyon provides life to desert homes, farms and businesses. It provides recreation opportunities for the hundreds of campers and anglers that come each year. The Huntington Creek blue-ribbon fishery attracts novice and serious anglers. Its scenic values bring enjoyment to thousands of visitors annually.

Reservoirs store water for business, homes, farms, and utility production ensuring a water source during dry years. Coal from Huntington Canyon brings heat to homes and businesses and energy to powerful regional generating plants. From the nearby power plants electricity flows to thousands of locations throughout the western states.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

Red Rock Forests is committed to assisting the Manti-La Sal National forest by providing volunteers and partnering in managing any and all segments that are designated as Wild and Scenic within the forest.

Local, county and state governments have indicated their disapproval of designation of Huntington Creek as a Wild and Scenic River and their disinterest in any involvement in any management partnerships or funding.

Huntington Creek Suitability Evaluation Report
Appendix A

**Economic Impact Analysis
Proposed Hunter #4 Unit**

Emery County, Utah

**Utah Governor's Office of Planning and Budget
116 State Capitol
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114
(801) 538-1027
www.governor.utah.gov/gopb**

September 29, 2003

Purpose:

This document was prepared for Emery County to show the projected economic impact of the proposed development of an additional electric power generator at the Hunter Power Plant near Castledale. This proposed generator is known as the Hunter #4 Unit. Data was cost and employment data that was obtained from PacifiCorp. Analysis for projections was conducted by the Utah Governor's Office of Planning and Budget.

Background:

The following text was taken from the draft *Utah Coal Report*, 2003; Utah Energy Office.

Utah Markets***PacifiCorp Power Plants***

The Hunter, Huntington and Carbon thermal units are controlled by PacifiCorp, which has filed an updated Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) with the Utah Public Service Commission.

The plan projects the need for 4,000 MW of additional electric power capacity during the first ten years of the twenty year IRP. For the region including Utah, power demand is expected to grow by more than two percent per year. To meet that need, the company would like to pursue a diverse portfolio of conservation programs (called "demand side management" or DSM), renewable energy sources and additional thermal units, fired by either coal or natural gas.

The least-cost portfolio calls for at least four new thermal units, three fired by natural gas and one by coal. Three of these units would be located in the eastern portion of PacifiCorp's service area, which includes Utah.

The IRP provides for long term evaluation of the viability of a new coal baseload thermal unit, and says that, nationally, natural gas has emerged as the industry's thermal resource of choice. According to the IRP filing, "... the long term impacts of atmospheric emissions cast doubt upon the viability of coal-fired generation." The plan also acknowledges that increasing reliance on natural gas for power generation has reached the point where issues of gas supply and price volatility are now also issues of price and supply of electric power itself.

After a long period when few power plants were added to the western states' grid, a sudden burst of power plant construction, 95 percent of which is fired by natural gas, may only temporarily meet demand. Moreover, increasing reliance on natural gas for power production may make electricity prices less predictable, due to underlying volatility of natural gas prices.

PacifiCorp predicts that a gap will emerge between power demand and resources available for power production. The IRP notes that the potential benefits of expanding existing thermal plants include the fact that they do not require the cost and uncertainty of acquiring new power plant sites and power line corridors. Clean coal technology is not included in portfolio analysis due to expected high cost.

Existing PacifiCorp Coal-Fired Plants

Hunter 1, 2 and 3

Built in 1980, each of the Hunter #1 and #2 units produce 662 net MW on a nameplate rating of 782 MW. The more recent Hunter #3 unit, completed in 1983, produces 460 net MW on a rating of 495 MW. A fourth unit at Hunter is the next logical expansion of the system, as hinted in the PacifiCorp IRP described above. For now the new gas peaking plants at West Valley City and Gadsby adequately supply peak, as well as some baseload demand.

A significant increment of new power can be squeezed from existing turbines when, during overhaul, they may be upgraded for approval to run on overpressure, typically raising yield by 50 MW. Hunter #1 suffered an extended forced outage during 2000 that required PacifiCorp to purchase power from the open market during a period of coincidentally high prices. This painful situation is prone to occur more often as rising demand confronts three difficulties: an aging, over-stressed grid, the difficulty of getting regulatory approval of new coal-fired plants, and potential over-reliance on gas-fired power.

The Hunter power plant has a technology-leading coal blending facility that has captured national attention, by allowing flexibility and precision in coal-blending that are increasingly required for meeting air emission standards. Hunter can also do some light washing of coal to remove sulfur, but due to high cost have not done so for years.

PacifiCorp's IRP calls for about 4,000 MW in new power. Very conceptual plans have identified Hunter as a potentially good candidate for a fourth combustion unit, of about 400 MW. A fourth thermal unit has been envisioned at Hunter for some time, due to the natural advantage of using an existing site and existing power line rights-of-way. Preliminary application has been made for regulatory review of this option. Based on much cheaper coal in Wyoming, expansion of an existing plant in that region might be relatively more competitive were it not for power transmission weaknesses through that area.

The company's IRP filing concludes that somewhere in the 2008-2012 timeframe a new 575 MW base load coal-fired thermal unit (ostensibly as Hunter #4) would be a valuable addition to the company portfolio. Questions regarding air emission regulations and the cost-effectiveness and reliability of new coal combustion technology would also have to be resolved favorably.

Hunter power production was higher in 2002 than in 2001, with plant equivalent availability for units #1 and #2 running at 92 percent. Unit #3 availability averaged 83 percent. The three Hunter units are delivering at 90 percent of capacity, after completing a five week overhaul in 2002. Hunter had begun stockpiling coal after PacifiCorp determined that poor seam conditions warranted mining-out Trail Mountain quickly. The resulting 1.5 million ton stockpile allowed Hunter to stay fueled during the overhaul and during two recent long wall moves by Sufco, which also supplies the plant. Contracts with Canyon Fuel allow some flexibility in the mix of coal coming from either Sufco, which supplied about four million tons in 2002, or Dugout Canyon, which supplied about 400,000 tons. This dual-source arrangement is particularly important because of air quality problems associated with burning Dugout Canyon's relatively high sulfur coal.

Additional information can be found at <http://www.pacificorp.com/Navigation/Navigation23807.html>.

Economic Impact Analysis:

Using information provided by Mr. James Lacey from PacifiCorp, we used an economic model to produce the impacts of the Hunter #4 Unit project. Our results are based on total costs, number of employees, and average salaries for these employees.

The data we collected is as follows:

- Total Cost: \$800,000,000
- Peak labor during construction: 1000 employees
- Completed plant employees: 75 employees
- Average salaries for employees: \$65,000-\$80,000
- Additional contract employees for maintenance: 20 full-time persons
- Construction would begin in March 2005 and set to begin operation in June 2008

We entered this raw data into our economic model for the Emery County area. We used the model from Regional Economic Models, Inc (REMI). The REMI economic model is a leading economic forecasting model and is able to take into account all of the economic variables within the county.

The results are as follows for the Emery/Carbon County area:

- Peak construction (2007): 1,500 jobs and \$60 million personal income¹
- Normal operation (after 2008): 300 jobs and \$23 million personal income
- Carbon and Emery County: 50 coal mining jobs

The results show peak construction jobs of 1,500, an increase of 500 jobs due to the number of indirect links. The total jobs created with normal operation is 350: 75 normal operation jobs, 20 maintenance contract jobs, 50 coal-mining jobs, and 205 jobs due to the number of indirect links. These are annual figures, based on today's dollars. These jobs will be in addition to the employment projections shown in the document "Population, Employment, and Income Profiles and Trends" prepared by the Utah Governor's Office of Planning and Budget for Emery County.

¹ **U.S. Personal Income:** Measures the total income received by U.S. households from employment, self-employment, investments, and transfer payments. **Source:** Bureau of Economic Analysis. Release dates available at <http://www.bea.doc.gov>.

Appendix B

BENEFITS OF COUNTY FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO SAN RAFAEL SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT SEPTEMBER 2003

COUNTY FUNDING: **\$45,000/year – Irrigation coordinator (actual spending is over \$50,000/year)**

DIRECT BENEFITS AND RESULTS

This one act of support has resulted in the following benefits to Emery County, with the San Rafael Soil Conservation District coordinating the actions:

Irrigation Coordinator: This position has had a direct impact on Salinity Control (water savings) Projects throughout the county.

Increased funding: This funding is used as leverage to secure additional funds from Utah Association of Conservation Districts, and irrigation companies. These additional sources of funds have been used to help hire one full time and one part time employee. Their jobs are directly related to soil and water conservation efforts.

Countywide irrigation projects: Ferron, Moore, Emery, Huntington Canyon, Fillmore South Group, Green River, Huntington-Cleveland Proposal. See summary below.

Millsite Sedimentation Committee: This committee has been responsible for watershed restoration projects in the Ferron Watershed area. The main effort is to save Millsite Reservoir water storage. The Forest Service has increased their efforts in the Ferron Watershed because of this committee's organization. This committee has received grants and will continue to seek grants to improve the situation.

Watershed Quality Assessment Committee: A committee established to improve water quality in the Price River, San Rafael River, Muddy Creek and Green River. This committee was organized to address the mandates of the Environmental Protection Agency. The organization of this committee will be instrumental in bringing federal, state, private and local financial assistance to all watersheds in the county.

Depletion Allowance: Returned over \$34,000 to local landowners for water depletion costs assessed by US Fish and Wildlife. Ferron, Moore, Huntington Canyon landowners, and Lawrence South have received funds. Have a commitment from state to pay any other depletion allowance costs occurring in the next two years.

Watershed Management Plans: Bureau of Reclamation, Utah Board of Water Resources and other groups require all irrigation companies to have a water management plan before any funding will be given for irrigation projects. The soil conservation district is helping companies to write these plans. Ferron Canal and Reservoir Company and Huntington Cleveland Irrigation Company plans are complete.

Direct Link to Landowners: The soil conservation district is a direct link and contact with landowners. We work with them on irrigation needs, soil and water conservation training,

financing, manure application, water quality problems, salinity proposal preparation and submittal, grazing improvements, etc.

Increased Crop Yields: Landowners are reporting an increase in alfalfa yields (up to 1.5 tons increase per acre). This is significant considering the drought situation we are currently in.

SUMMARY OF IRRIGATION PROJECTS AS A RESULT OF FUNDING FROM EMERY COUNTY

All sprinkler irrigation projects will save up to 50% of water that is currently being used on irrigated farms. As an example, the Ferron Project is 80% complete and the communities of Ferron and Clawson, as well as local landowners are already seeing extended water usage.

Ferron Watershed Project:

\$10,802,744 from Bureau of Reclamation for off-farm system

\$ 4.5 Million in on-farm cost share funding –70%

\$867,234 paid by landowners (3% loan available through the district- (State ARDL program).

Current expenses.

\$816,000 – Payroll expenses paid to local people.

(Over \$1.3 million have been committed to the Molen, Rock Canyon, Clawson and Paradise Ranch projects in 2003)

Moore Irrigation Project: INSTALLED!

Off-farm funds came as a result of Ferron Project getting into the Salinity Program. Installed by local labor.

\$4,733,160 – in off-farm grant

\$601,422 – in on-farm cost share funding –70%

\$257,752 – paid by landowners (3% loan available through the district (State ARDL loan program).

Seely-Collard Project: INSTALLED!

Off-farm funds came as a result of Ferron Project getting into the Salinity Program.

\$185,690 – off-farm

\$101,585 – in on-farm cost share –70%

\$43,536 – paid by landowners (3% loan available through the district (State ARDL loan program).

Lawrence South – Fillmore Group (part of Huntington-Cleveland): INSTALLED!

\$1,440,792 – Approved by Bureau of Reclamation for off-farm in 2001.

\$ 438,060 - On-farm cost share funding

\$187,740 – to be paid by landowners.

Cottonwood Winter Water (Livestock) Project: COMPLETE!

\$2,100,000 - Bureau of Reclamation funds

Huntington-Cleveland Salinity Proposal:

Projects are being prepared to submit to the Bureau of Reclamation for salinity control efforts. These project proposals will come from Elmo North, Huntington North and Emery.

Projected cost of irrigation system: Federal - \$88,000,000, Private - \$6,764,612
(this includes \$14.1 mil for storage res., \$2 mil for stock water)

Green River:

\$15,000 -Sought and received a sprinkling demonstration project from Bureau of Reclamation. Landowners will pay an additional \$3,500.

Some small irrigation projects are being installed now.

Helped them receive an interest free loan of \$13,000 to install a water measuring weir.

EA to be written in 2004

Emery:

Proposal being written.

Projected cost: \$16,000,000

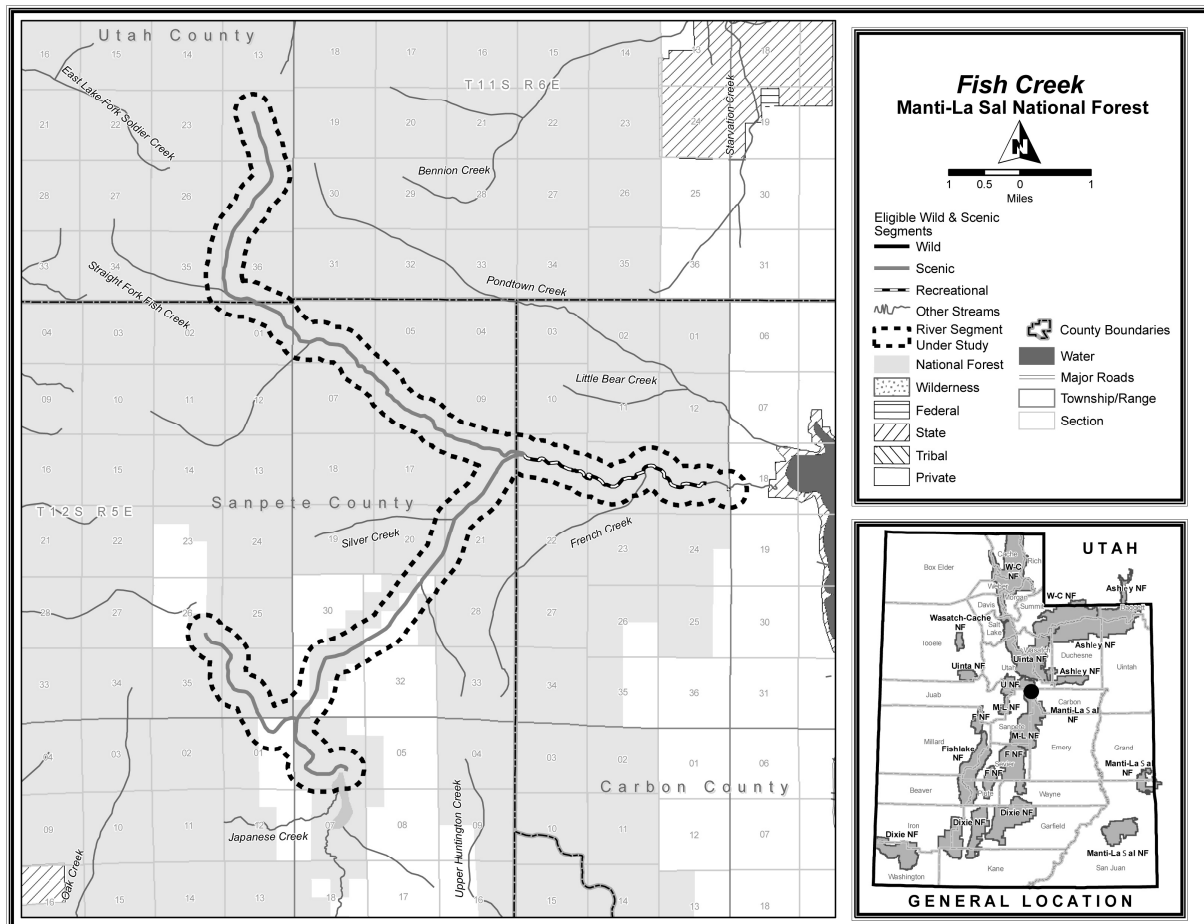
EA being written.

TOTAL FUNDS RECEIVED INTO EMERY COUNTY FOR IRRIGATION PROJECTS as of

September 2003:

Off-farm –	\$19,262,386
On-farm -	\$6,941,067
Private -	\$2,356,271
Other -	<u>\$34,500</u>
TOTAL-	\$28,594,224

Fish Creek including Lower Gooseberry Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Fish Creek including Lower Gooseberry Creek

River Mileage:

Fish Creek including Lower Gooseberry Creek

Studied: 20.65 miles from the headwaters along the east crest of the Wasatch Plateau to the Manti-La Sal Forest boundary

Eligible: Same

Location:

Segment 1 – 17.05 miles from the headwaters from headwaters of Fish Creek and Lower Gooseberry Creek to the junction of Fish Creek & Lower Gooseberry Creek as a Scenic river.
Segment 2 – 3.60 miles from the junction of Fish Creek & Lower Gooseberry Creek to the Forest boundary as a Recreational river.

Location: *Coordinates are in UTM Zone 12 N. NAD 83, meters*

Fish Creek including Lower Gooseberry Creek	Manti -La Sal National Forest, Ferron and Price Ranger Districts, Carbon, Sanpete and Utah Counties, Utah				Congressional District UT-2 UT-3	
	Start		End		Classification	Rounded Miles
	Northing	Easting	Northing	Easting		
Segment 1 Fish Creek/Gooseberry			4403500	478979	Scenic	17.05
Cabin Hollow	4399491	471768				
Gooseberry Creek	4396343	474950				
Fish Creek	4411310	472844				
Segment 2 Fish Creek	4403500	478979	4402714	483634	Recreational	3.60

Physical Description of River: Fish Creek and tributaries generally occupy broad canyon areas with canyon bottom riparian vegetation, and aspen and spruce covered slopes. Slopes are long, with moderate grades. Soils are deep and little to no surface rock and rock outcrops exist. The streams within these broad canyons have meandered over time, and have created small meadow areas along canyon bottoms. The canyons remain fairly wide from the headwaters to the Pleasant Valley area. Sagebrush and other mountain brush species become more prevalent in the lower elevations of the segment.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Final Eligibility Determination of Wild and Scenic Rivers of Rivers, March 2003, (USDA Forest Service Supplement to the Manti-La Sal NF Final Eligibility Determination of Wild and Scenic Rivers, 2006)

Determination of Free-flow: There are no diversions or significant channel modifications and is free of impoundments.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs):

Wildlife – Upper Fish Creek contains the largest breeding population of Willow Flycatchers known in the state. The area has been described as an “outstanding example of good riparian management” (1998 Southwestern Willow Flycatchers Surveys on U.S. Forest Service Lands in Utah). Willow flycatchers breed in shrubby or woodland habitats, usually adjacent to, or near, surface water or saturated soils. Therefore, good riparian habitat, as found in the Upper Fish Creek drainage, is important for this species. Willow Flycatchers can be found from the inlet into Scofield Reservoir to the confluence with Gooseberry Creek. Riparian habitat, especially “good riparian habitat” is one of the rarest habitat types in Utah and currently occupies less than 1 percent of the state’s land cover. However, 75 percent of Utah’s bird species use riparian habitat to nest, forage, water, migrate and/or winter. As evidence of this, 54 species of birds have been observed in Fish Creek during the breeding season. In comparison to Fish Creek, suitable Willow Flycatcher habitat in Huntington Canyon was inventoried and no Willow Flycatchers were detected and only nine species of birds were observed. Fish creek contains extensive tracts of willow dominated habitat at least 100 m wide and more than 500 m long (Banding and Genetic Sampling of Willow Flycatchers in Utah: 1997 and 1998). This is one of the attributes of Fish Creek that make it unique and contributes to its outstanding value as wildlife habitat. Upper Fish Creek also contains numerous mammalian species including beavers, black bear, mule deer, and elk. The variety of vegetation, remoteness and large size of the Fish Creek area provides excellent habitat for elk parturition and rearing. The area also provides very high quality, relatively undisturbed, summer and fall habitat for mule deer and elk, including habitat for fawning, calving and rearing. Beaver use the riparian habitat for habitat, and bear frequent the corridors of the watercourses.

The 1998 report, “Southwest Willow Flycatchers Surveys on U.S. Forest Service Lands in Utah,” did say that Fish and Gooseberry Creeks were “an outstanding example of good riparian habitat,” the surveys did not find any southwest willow flycatchers on these streams. Where willow fly catchers are found on these streams, they were not the southwestern willow fly catcher. The U.S Fish and Wildlife Service’s, “Endangered, Threatened, Proposed and Candidate Species, Utah Counties,” (November 2007) list shows the southwestern willow fly catcher in Emery, Garfield, Grand, Iron, Kane, San Juan, Washington, and Wayne Counties

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River: Segment 1 – Scenic

It is only accessible at the lower end by Forest Development Road (FDR) 123). Fish Creek National Recreation Trail (Trail 130) parallels Fish Creek the entire distance. The watercourses are within sheep grazing allotments and evidence of past prescribed burns exists.

Segment 2 –Recreational

There is substantial evidence of human activity; lands have been developed for a full range of forestry uses, and are readily accessible by road.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses

Segment	Ownership		Distance in Miles	Square Miles	Acres
Fish Creek/ Gooseberry Creek (Scenic)					
Cabin Hollow	Forest Service	0-1.61	1.61	0.805	515.20
	Private	1.61-2.27	0.066	0.330	211.20
	Forest Service	2.27-2.33	0.06	0.030	19.20
Gooseberry Creek	Forest Service	0-3.08	3.08	1.540	985.60
	Private	3.08-4.06	0.98	0.490	313.60
	Forest Service	4.06-4.12	0.06	0.030	19.20
	Private	4.12-4.38	0.26	0.130	83.20
	Forest Service	4.38-6.66	2.28	1.140	729.60
Fish Creek	Forest Service	0-8.04	8.04	4.020	2572.80
Fish Creek (Recreational)	Forest Service	0-3.60	3.6	1.800	1152.00
		Total=	20.63		

The eligible portion of Fish Creek lies within the boundaries of Utah, Sanpete, and Carbon counties: 1.4 miles are within withdrawn lands currently under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Reclamation; 1.8 miles are privately owned; and the remaining 17.9 miles are located on National Forest System Lands.

In 1941, the Secretary of Interior withdrew 6,180 acres of National Forest System Lands for reclamation purposes; 5640 acres of that withdrawal are in the Gooseberry Creek watershed. These acres are associated with the proposed Narrows project, an irrigation reservoir sponsored by the Sanpete Water Conservancy District. The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) has the authority to develop the land for reclamation purposes. The withdrawal allows the Forest Service to manage the lands for National Forest System purposes until the BOR is ready to proceed as long as the Forest Service does not allow any activity that will preclude the purposes for the withdrawal. Land withdrawn for reclamation purposes that is no longer needed for such purposes would be relinquished back to the Forest Service for management. However, the Bureau of Reclamation would continue to be in control of roads, tunnels, etc., associated with the purpose of the withdrawal. Once facilities are built, the BOR could give the Sanpete Water Conservancy District authority to manage the facilities, and when the loan is repaid, BOR could give the Sanpete Water Conservancy District an easement for the facilities.

All of the waters flowing from Fish Creek and Gooseberry Creek are allocated to downstream uses in Sanpete and Carbon counties. On normal or even higher than normal years of precipitation, the water in Fish Creek and Gooseberry Creek is over-appropriated.

Under the 1986 Forest Plan, for the most part, the Forest manages the land surrounding the eligible segments with emphasis on semi-primitive recreation use. Most areas are closed to motorized vehicles. However, hiking, fishing, horseback riding, hunting, cross-country skiing, other day use activities, and overnight camping occur along with other multiple uses such as grazing and mining.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – Coal: There is potential for recoverable coal to the east of the Gooseberry Fault and to the south of the Fish Creek Graben. Coal in the other areas is probably too deep to mine and is not accessible from adjacent areas due to the offset in the faults. Coal east and south of the fault zones, respectively, is being investigated for exploration to determine mineability. Potential coal reserves are adjacent to and beneath the river segments. Mining activity could be allowed in areas classified under scenic or recreational designations. Stipulations could be imposed as necessary to protect scenic qualities, wildlife, cultural resources and the watershed. There would likely be no adverse effect to the outstandingly remarkable wildlife value due to coal mining.

Natural Gas and Oil: Development potential in the area is considered to be high for natural gas and moderate for oil. Most of the area has been leased or is currently available for leasing. However, because much of the area under study was designated as Semi-Primitive Recreation (SPR) under the 1986 Forest Plan, the SPR area would carry a No Surface Occupancy (NSO) Stipulation with any lease. An NSO stipulation would mean that the area could not be occupied for drilling, but could be explored from adjacent areas using directional drilling methods. Limited areas in the SPR area with slopes less than 35 percent along the canyon rim (where drilling would not be visible from the National Recreation Trail) are available for leasing and could be occupied for exploration or production (limited to essential operations only). Visual impacts would be short-term and considered minimal. Portions outside the SPR designation would be available for lease without occupancy limitations and likely be visible from limited reaches of the river.

Locatable/Common Variety Mineral: Potential for locatable or common variety mineral material development is limited to the Flagstaff Limestone that forms the caps of high ridges/mesas along the western boundary of the area. The limestone could be used as either a common variety mineral (gravel, building stone) or a locatable mineral (Portland cement, metallurgical limestone, etc.). The likelihood for development is small. The Forest Plan would require any mitigation to ensure water quality.

There is a strong likelihood that coal, oil, and gas reserves are located in the area which could be developed for extraction.

Water Resources Development – Scoping comments from Utah Division of Water Resources identify three potential water developments upstream of and on the studied segments.

The Mammoth Dam and Reservoir (T13S R06E Section 06, Two proposed dam heights; 115 ft high, and 180 ft high, capacities of 41,213 ac-ft and 75,624 ac-ft respectively). This reservoir was once built and failed, the site is on the upstream end of the proposed Fish Creek Wild and Scenic River segment. Still a viable site, reservoir was originally proposed in several more sizes (This site overlaps with the existing Lower Gooseberry Reservoir upstream of segment).

Gooseberry (T13S R06E Section 19, 100 ft high, 36,000 ac-ft capacity). On Gooseberry Creek upstream of proposed Fish Creek Wild and Scenic River section.

Narrows Dam and Reservoir, T13S R06E Sections 19, 25, 30. More information about this potential development is discussed below.

In 1941 the Secretary of Interior used a first form withdrawal of National Forest System lands in the headwaters of Gooseberry Creek and some adjacent areas. First form withdrawals were made specifically for development projects such as dams. In this case, the withdrawal specifically states that it was made for the Gooseberry (Narrows) Project. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S.D.A. Natural Resources and Conservation Service, Utah Division of Water Resources, Utah Division of Water Rights, and the Sanpete Water Conservancy District have performed extensive studies in the watershed. These studies provide the basis for the current Narrows Project plan and show there is significant potential for water resource development in the Fish Creek watershed. The estimated annual water yield above the proposed Narrows project dam is approximately 8,900 acre-feet. Of that, approximately 5,400 acre-feet are allocated to the Sanpete Water Conservancy District for the Narrows Project.

Current flows through Gooseberry Creek to Fish Creek may be altered if the Narrows Project is completed. A stipulation signed July 13, 1989, by the United States Justice Department and the Sanpete Water Conservancy District subordinated all federal water rights to the Sanpete Water Conservancy District, rights needed to implement the Narrows Project. The stipulation requires the maintenance of a minimum flow downstream of the proposed dam. Analysis by the Forest Service indicates that the proposed operations scenario for the Narrows Project may not provide a regime of high flows necessary to maintain the outstandingly remarkable value associated with the Lower Gooseberry and Fish Creek segments. Without mitigation, the changed frequency and duration of flows may eventually have an adverse effect on the riparian habitat in Lower Gooseberry and Fish Creek, which supports the outstandingly remarkable wildlife value. The Narrows Project would not affect Upper Fish Creek.

Should the Narrows Project not be completed, the water allocated to the Sanpete Water Conservancy District would likely be diverted to the Sanpete Valley by other means. At this time, no alternatives have been developed for this scenario. Therefore, it is impossible to predict the possible effects on the eligible segments of Gooseberry and Fish Creeks.

There are also existing water developments downstream of the studied segments. BOR has withdrawn lands for the Emery Irrigation projects downstream of the studied segments.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Forest Road #50123 provides access to the lower end of Fish Creek. This road originates at Scofield Reservoir and provides access to Fish Creek Campground and the Fish Creek National Recreation Trail trailhead. The Fish Creek National Recreation Trail, a non-motorized trail, follows the river from Scofield to Skyline Drive approximately 10 miles. Skyline Drive, Forest Road #50150, runs the length of the Wasatch Plateau. A trailhead on Skyline Drive provides non-motorized access to the headwaters of Fish Creek. This general area has relatively few

management uses, facilities, and infrastructure. The exceptions are livestock use, range allotment boundary fences, camping, and trailhead facilities at the upper and lower end.

Forest Road # 50124 accesses Gooseberry Creek at Lower Gooseberry Reservoir. Remains of the Mammoth Dam are located on Gooseberry Creek below Lower Gooseberry Reservoir. When the dam failed in the early 1900s the stream channel was severely eroded and scoured. Remnants of the dam and evidence of the dam failure are still visible today. Downstream of Lower Gooseberry Reservoir, a utility corridor with two natural gas pipelines crosses Lower Gooseberry Creek. The corridor is cleared of trees and shrubs and is highly visible. An existing diversion structure on Cabin Hollow, a tributary to Lower Gooseberry Creek, provides irrigation water for private land west of Lower Gooseberry Reservoir.

Grazing Activities – The Gooseberry Creek and Fish Creek watershed has been available for multiple use since the earliest pioneers came into the area. Livestock and wildlife from this area were used to feed workers constructing the railroads and mines. Cattle, sheep, and horses have grazed the lands. Currently, cattle graze outside of the area under study, upstream of the Lower Gooseberry segment while sheep graze throughout the area under study.

Recreation Activities – The Fish Creek National Recreation Trail parallels Fish Creek from the mouth of the creek near Scofield Reservoir to Skyline Drive, a distance of approximately 10 miles. The non-motorized trail is the main access into the 25,000-acre semi-primitive, unroaded area. Fish Creek is closed to fishing until the second week of July due to spring spawning of cutthroat and rainbow trout. Once the creek is open to fishing, the fishing pressure is fairly heavy.

Next to fishing and hiking, much of the activity within the corridor and on the trail occurs during the fall hunting season. Bow hunting, black powder, and the regular rifle hunts bring hunters on foot and horseback. Once snow accumulates sufficiently, snowmobiling is a popular activity in the headwaters of Upper Fish Creek. In the lower portion of Fish Creek, cross-country skiing occurs.

Springtime brings bird watchers and wildflower enthusiasts to the Fish Creek area.

Other Resource Activities – No other resource activities exist in the corridor.

Special Designations – The Fish Creek National Recreation Trail follows Fish Creek from the trailhead near Scofield Reservoir to Skyline Drive. The trail is used and enjoyed by hikers, fishermen, hunters, and birdwatchers.

Socio-Economic Environment – Both Sanpete and Carbon counties have populations under 30,000. They are dependent on water from the Wasatch Plateau for agriculture, industrial, and culinary uses. Potential growth is limited by available water.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The USDA Forest Service, Manti-La Sal National Forest would be the most likely managing agency responsible for the overall administration of any WSR designated segments because they currently manage the majority of federal land surrounding the eligible segments. Another possible agency to administer the area could be the Bureau of Reclamation as 1.4 miles of the river segment flows through lands withdrawn from the Forest Service and under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Reclamation.

Define River Corridor: As a minimum, the river corridor would extend for the length of the river segments and ¼ mile in width from each bank of the river. That is, the corridor would run approximately 21.1 miles in length, by ½ mile wide. The corridor would include adjacent areas such as the confluence area of a tributary stream. A land survey of the entire length Lower Gooseberry, Upper Fish Creek and Fish Creek would cost approximately \$90,712. The total length of the watercourses is 21.1 miles.

Cost of Land: There are 563 acres of nonfederal lands owned by one party. The Forest may be interested in acquiring selected parcels close to the Gooseberry and Fish Creek junction through purchase or easements to protect and enhance the river corridor. Private land within this area is currently zoned WS (Watershed) and would sell “as is” between \$1500 and \$3000 an acre. Final costs cannot be determined at this time.

Developing A Management Plan: Because of the complexity of the area and the resource issues, developing a management plan for these stream segments could take four to six months. Reconnaissance, evaluation, and development of management would require time from specialists in soils, hydrology, recreation, wildlife, botany, watershed, and range. Regional specialists would likely be called upon to review and approve a management plan for this area. The cost of writing, reviewing, and approving a plan could be as much as \$90,000. Printing costs are estimated at approximately \$400.

Development of Lands and Facilities: The land surrounding the eligible segments is an unroaded, natural area. There is a ½-mile long road into the lower drainage. At its terminus are a small campground and the lower trailhead for the National Recreation Trail. There is a trailhead at the upper end of the trail. No other facilities exist within the river corridor. The trailhead parking at the lower end is currently in need of expansion to handle increased use. Cost of expansion of the parking area is estimated at \$5,500. There are five picnic tables at this trailhead/campground. The 6-foot tables are in poor repair and need replacement. Picnic tables need to be replaced about every six to eight years. The cost of replacement of the tables is approximately \$4,250.

The annual cost of trail maintenance is \$4,000. No additional facilities are planned at this time.

User Capacities: No formal study on use or capacity for recreation or hunting purposes has been made. The cost to complete such a study would be approximately \$8,000.

Land Survey: The cost of surveying the private lands adjacent to the river corridor would be approximately \$60,000.

Monitoring management data: Proper management of these river segments would require periodic visits to the area, especially during the summer season. River corridor monitoring functions would include the inspection of signs, trail condition, and noxious weed monitoring. Additional activities might include riparian and aquatic habitat studies and monitoring of invasive species. Other area management functions would include the maintenance of signs and some trail maintenance.

The experience level required for these functions could range from a GS-4 technician to journey level specialists. The incremental additional costs would be approximately \$12,500.

Resource Protection: Current management of the area is classified as an unroaded, natural area. There are no lawful opportunities for motorized vehicles within the river corridor and surrounding portions of the watershed. Additional patrol and law enforcement protection would cost approximately \$8,079 annually. Additional signing is approximately \$2,000 annually.

Enhancement projects: Control of invasive plants would cost approximately \$3,000 annually.

Reporting to Congress on WSR: An annual report to Congress would take an individual five days to highlight the use and the management activity associated with the new designation. Estimated cost: \$1,500.

First year start up costs: Approximately \$258,862 (does not include any land acquisition costs).

Additional Annual Operating Costs: Approximately \$31,079.

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

The increased administration and associated cost of managing the river segment would be the responsibility of the Manti-La Sal National Forest. Forest Service funds are projected to decline over the course of the next planning period.

Representatives of Sanpete County, Carbon County, and the state of Utah do not support a WSR designation. As such, none of these entities are likely to share in the administrative costs associated with managing a river designated under the WSR Act.

The Forest has received letters from the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, two State legislators, the Congressional delegate from the US House of Representatives in whose district most of the river segments are located, and both US Senators opposing the inclusion of Fish Creek and Gooseberry Creek to the Wild and Scenic River System. It is highly unlikely that any support for preservation and administration of the river would be given, should these segments be designated.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any local zoning and/or land use controls that appear to conflict with protection of river values.

The State and county governments have no desire, nor do they currently have the authority or ability, to protect the outstandingly remarkable wildlife value on non-federal lands. It is highly unlikely that either the State or counties would pass legislation or zoning ordinances that would protect the outstandingly remarkable wildlife value on non-federal lands.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

The Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, Commissioners from Sanpete and Carbon counties, two State Legislators, Congressman Cannon, and Senators Bennett and Hatch are in opposition to the designation of these river segments under the WSR Act. The Forest received no letters of support for designation from State or local agencies. Local county government leaders are especially adamant in their strong opposition to a WSR designation. Numerous residents, water users, and businessmen have called, sent e-mails, and written letters of protest over potential designation.

While many of these State and local agencies and individuals may support some continued maintenance of the aquatic and riparian systems, none agree with protecting this area by designation under the WSR Act. Many of these people enjoy and cherish the Fish Creek and Gooseberry Creek areas and want to see the general systems maintained. They would prefer to see maintenance assumed under authorities that are more flexible to changing needs than can be afforded from designation.

Senator Robert F. Bennett wrote two letters with identical verbiage dated August 25, 2004. One letter referenced Carbon County and the other Sanpete County.

The concerns raised by ... County include questions about the significance of the segments under consideration, whether the segments meet the standards of continually flowing water, questions over water rights and the availability of existing management options which could be employed to protect the river's values without being designated as Wild and Scenic. It is important to note, that the county depends heavily on natural

resources to sustain its local economy and even the smallest change by a federal land management agency can have negative impacts.

According to **Senator Orrin Hatch**:

The Federal Government does not have a water right that would ensure that these two river segments would remain free of impoundment as required by the law.

As you well know, water resources are vital to the economic viability of any area. This fact is especially germane to Sanpete County which has labored long and hard to obtain access to their adjudicated water rights. A finding of suitability for these two river segments would simply complicate the process which will inevitably end, due to the lack of the necessary water right, in their being not suitable for designation under the Wild and Scenic River Act. (August 12, 2004)

Congressman Chris Cannon wrote:

I oppose any portion of Fish Creek or Gooseberry Creek being designated ‘Wild and Scenic.’

While the idea of preserving certain rivers, streams, etc., is surely praiseworthy, the scales of common sense ultimately have to balance. In this particular case, whatever benefits may result from designating Gooseberry or Fish Creeks as “Wild and Scenic” do not justify the likelihood that such a designation could deprive citizens, farmers, and businesses of the water which will become available from the Narrows project.

By far the most compelling reason not to designate, however, is the critical need for water in Sanpete County, and the unfulfilled commitments that have been made for many years regarding completion of The Narrows. (July 2, 2004)

The **Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget** states:

A review of the information contained in the DRAFT Fish Creek (Including Gooseberry Creek) Preliminary Suitability Factor Analysis, causes the State to conclude that the identified segments of Fish Creek and Gooseberry Creek do not meet the suitability standard of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, even if its concerns about eligibility of the creeks are set aside. ...The state believes that the draft accurately and clearly illustrates that application of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to Fish Creek and Gooseberry Creek would create serious conflicts with existing priority water rights, a Bureau of Reclamation water development withdrawal which has existed for more than seventy years, and the economic and social needs of several counties and therefore, the citizens of the State of Utah.

The **Sanpete County Commissioners** wrote:

...that this river segment does not qualify as a wild & scenic river under the Wild and Scenic Rivers. The Wild & Scenic Rivers Act mandates that a river have two basic features to qualify as a wild and scenic river: first, the river must be free flowing, and second, the river must possess one of several outstandingly remarkable values (“ORVS”). We believe that Fish Creek does not meet either standard for this designation.

The very fact that Forest Service has declared Fish Creek as eligible has significantly impacted Sanpete Water Conservancy District’s efforts in pressing forward with the Gooseberry Narrows project. The Narrows Project will alleviate many of the adverse

effects that drought has brought to our County. The Narrows Project will finally allow Sanpete County to fully exercise its water right. The Narrows Project will provide another economic/recreational fishing and camping experience in our County.

It doesn't meet the suitability criteria for being maintained as a Wild & Scenic river because it has already been identified as a contributing tributary to the Gooseberry Narrows Project providing a much needed storage of water for our residents use and providing the water supply needed for the future growth needs of our municipalities. The Forest must determine Fish Creek not suitable for protection under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act because the best use of the Fish Creek segment watershed is for water resources development, in other words, the Gooseberry Narrows Project. (July 5, 2004)

The **Carbon County Commissioners** wrote:

In reviewing the described characteristics and comparing these values to the existing National System now in place, we can find nothing that would make this stream nationally significant. The current landownership is U.S. Forest Service and the present use is Semi-Primitive Recreation, grazing, fish and wildlife habitat. The reasonable foreseeable potential uses of land and water would be the same as they are now. The water on Upper Fish Creek is over-appropriated, as is most water in this State. Inclusion in the national system could cause foreclosure or curtailment of existing uses and hinder or stop management objectives. This would not be consistent with Carbon County's goals and objectives.

Upper Fish Creek drainage contributes to a major portion of the water in Scofield Reservoir, which is the only water storage facility in western Carbon County. Over 90% of our residents depend on Scofield for their water needs. Virtually all of the agricultural and industrial needs for water in Carbon County are provided by this reservoir. The present and future development needs will best be satisfied in management of the entire drainage as a water shed. A water shed management plan would allow the drainage to continue to produce the amount of water that it does presently. Additionally, sound timber management practices and vegetative manipulation can increase the watershed potential long-term. (August 5, 2004)

On the other hand, the Utah Rivers Council, Trout Unlimited, Red Rock Forests, The Wilderness Society, The Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, The Grand Canyon Trust, and The Three Forest Coalition support the designation.

The **Utah Rivers Council** wrote:

Carbon and Sanpete counties stand to gain jobs, tax revenue, and income from Wild and Scenic status. ...

...Designating Fish and Gooseberry Creeks as Wild and Scenic would provide a side benefit to Carbon County – source water protection for their only drinking water supply, Scofield Reservoir. By protecting the Creeks and associated corridor land from future development, the County can ensure that their water supply remains clean and healthy.... (July 15, 2004)

Responding to suitability of Fish Creek and Gooseberry Creek, Huntington Creek, and Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek, **Trout Unlimited** wrote:

The three creeks currently under suitability review for Wild and Scenic River designation are among the most highly-valued trout fisheries in Utah and, accordingly, are of great interest to TU. All hold healthy populations of trout, exhibit tremendous natural beauty, provide myriad recreational opportunities, support terrestrial wildlife populations, and attract anglers and others from throughout the West. Because of their recreational and scenic value, they contribute significantly to local and regional economies. These streams merit Forest Service care and protection.

Issues associated with Fish Creek and Lower Gooseberry Creek require particular attention....These segments are home to regionally-significant populations of wildlife. They provide increasingly rare opportunities for fishing in primitive areas with few roads and no impoundments. Their scenic values cannot be questioned. These stretches of stream are also critical to the health of Scofield Reservoir, which is one of the three most important flatwater fisheries in Utah and contributes millions to the regional economy. The reservoir often is on the verge of becoming eutrophic. Any reduction in flow into the reservoir could accelerate that process, resulting in a fish kill and significant economic harm. Fish Creek and Lower Gooseberry Creek are critical spawning areas for the cutthroat trout in Scofield Reservoir. Without consistent spring flows, spawning activity will be in jeopardy, again at significant economic and social cost. (July 7, 2004)

In a joint letter, **Red Rock Forests, The Wilderness Society, The Southern Utah Wilderness Society, and the Grand Canyon Trust** wrote:

Until some rivers or watercourses on the Manti-La Sal NF are designated under the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act, all of them remain remarkable examples of unprotected rivers of regional and statewide importance....

Fish Creek and Lower Gooseberry Creek is important habitat for most game animals in Utah, including those on the M-LS NF MIS list. The area is valuable habitat for Williamson's sapsucker, dwarf shrew, Utah milk snake, Utah mountain king snake, western boreal toad, northern goshawk, and many migratory bird species.

Fish Creek is a prime fishery and is known as a fly-fishing destination in Utah. Fish Creek contributes a large portion of the water for Schofield Reservoir, the Price water supply. The area should be kept as primitive as possible to protect the water quality entering Schofield Reservoir. (July 15, 2004)

Draft EIS Comments

Fish Creek and Gooseberry Creek elicited high volumes of comment.

Comments from the Sanpete County Commission, elected officials, the Sanpete Water Conservancy District and residents voiced strong opposition to designation. Among the variety of reasons for opposing designation were: the Narrows Project, the water rights that support the Narrows Project; historical rights that need to be protected, lack of sufficient irrigation water limiting economic growth; the fact that Fish Creek is protected by the Forest Plan and because Fish Creek is protected because it is in an Inventoried Roadless Area; County Plans should be supported; to maintain the ability to manipulate water in the Manti-La Sal; possible limits on sheep grazing; the ability to secure a loan from BOR and obtain a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers; water rights have been adjudicated; and designation would be contrary to state and state law, including water law.

Comments from the Carbon County Commission, the Helper Mayor, Orem High school class, home owners in the Fish Creek drainage, individuals and groups voiced strong support for WSR designation of Fish Creek and Gooseberry Creek. Among the reasons for supporting designation were: to protect rivers in their free-flowing condition, because it is a favorite destination, Gooseberry and Fish Creeks are headwater tributaries and deserve protection because of the functions they perform, the pristine environment, fertile soil and plant vegetation, and animal life; it belongs to future generations; wild species depend on these ecosystems; to protect historic flows critical to Carbon County's water supply system; and to support downstream Blue Ribbon fishery. Red Rock Forests is committed to assisting the Manti-La Sal National forest by providing volunteers and partnering in managing any and all segments that are designated as Wild and Scenic within the forest. All of the three organized campaign responses support a positive suitability finding and designation of this segment.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Most activities currently emphasized and allowed under the current Forest Plan are compatible with either a scenic or recreational classification. Therefore, little change to actual management could be expected given designation. The following excerpt is from the 1986 Land and Resource Management Plan for the Manti-La Sal National Forest Chapter III page 55, which specifies that Fish Creek be managed with emphasis on semi-primitive recreation use:

Management emphasis is for providing semi-primitive motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities. Recreation opportunities such as hiking, horseback riding, hunting, cross-country skiing, vehicular travel etc., are available. Some units (Fish Creek), or areas within units may be closed seasonally or permanently to motorized use. Seasonal or permanent restrictions on human use may be applied to provide for the protection of the physical, biological, or social resources.

Investments in compatible resource uses such as timber harvest, livestock grazing, wildlife habitat, mineral exploration and development, special uses, etc., may occur as long as they meet the planned VQO and maintain a high quality semi-primitive recreation opportunity. When the approved activity ceases, roads, structures, and appurtenances will be rehabilitated as closely as possible to reflect the previous, undisturbed condition.

Compared to the Forest Plan language above, the following wording from the Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council Questions & Answers shows that activities allowed under a scenic or recreational classification are very similar to that direction in the Forest Plan.

Federal lands within the boundaries of river areas designated and classified as **scenic** or **recreational** are not withdrawn under the Act from the mining and mineral leasing laws.

Existing valid claims or leases within the river boundary remain in effect, and activities may be allowed subject to regulations that minimize surface disturbance, water sedimentation, pollution, and visual impairment. Reasonable access to mining claims and mineral leases will be permitted. For rivers designated **scenic** or **recreational** filing of new mining claims or mineral leases is allowed but is subject to reasonable access and regulations that minimize surface disturbance, water sedimentation, pollution and visual impairment.

Harvesting practices on federal lands located within WSR corridors must be designed to help achieve land management objectives consistent with the protection and enhancement of the values which caused the river to be added to the National System. WSR designation is not likely to significantly affect timber harvesting or logging practices

beyond existing limitations to protect riparian zones and wetlands which are guided by other legal mandates and planning direction. Federal timber management activities outside the corridor will be designed to not adversely affect values which caused the river to be designated.

Generally, existing agricultural practices (e.g., livestock grazing activities) and related structures would not be affected by designation. Guidelines issued by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Interior indicate that livestock grazing and agricultural practices should be similar in nature and intensity to those present in the area at the time of designation to maintain the values for which the river was designated. (Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council Questions & Answers)

Canyon Fuel Company, LCC has an interest in coal exploration and potential coal reserves adjacent to the proposed segment. If Gooseberry Creek and Fish Creek were classified as **recreational** and **scenic**, designation would not impact their opportunity for coal extraction. Stipulations would be imposed that protect the creeks and the outstandingly remarkable wildlife value.

There would be no effect on the current range allotments within the area. There would be minimal limitations on oil and gas exploration since the river corridor is narrow and directional drilling would likely be able to take place.

There would be no effect on timber management, as it would continue to be managed to maintain scenic qualities and wildlife objectives.

Recreation management would be managed as it is in the current Forest plan. There would be no developed recreation allowed in the tentatively classified **scenic** portions of the river corridor.

The Bureau of Reclamation has been preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement that proposes the building of a dam and water diversion to Sanpete County. A designation under the WSR Act may be contrary to the purpose of the proposed action and the withdrawal.

Sanpete and Carbon county planning documents do not support the designation of WSR for these segments.

Water for growth, development, and energy production are overriding concerns of the counties that would potentially be affected by a WSR designation.

The Sevier River Basin Plan (1999), which covers Sanpete County, identifies the Narrows Project as the only possibility for additional water from outside the Basin to meet current and future water needs. The Plan conflicts with the intent of a WSR designation that does not allow dams.

The West Colorado River Basin Plan (2000), which covers Carbon County, does not include any historic or current reservoir proposals that would include the eligible river segments.

Designation would be consistent with some of the goals and plans of the Utah Department of Wildlife Resources, specifically those protecting native avian populations and quality fisheries and, enhancing habitat for large mammals.

The area under study is one of 55 bird habitat conservation areas identified in the Draft Coordinated Implementation Plan for Bird Conservation in Utah. The riparian habitat is locally and regionally important because of its high quality and diversity, which provides a rich environment for a variety of

regionally important wildlife species and many other birds, fishes, and mammals. The area also provides transitory habitat for bald eagle.

(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

Gooseberry Creek is located high in the Price River drainage. It is a tributary of Fish Creek, which flows directly into Scofield Reservoir. Seventy-one percent of the water entering Scofield Reservoir comes from Fish Creek. The Price River, which flows out of Scofield Reservoir, is a tributary of the Green River, which is a tributary of the Colorado River. Lower Gooseberry Reservoir on Gooseberry Creek and Scofield Reservoir at the terminus of Fish Creek preclude expanding the segments to include additional stretches of the segments.

The eligible segments of Fish and Gooseberry Creeks and the land surrounding them have minimal development and relatively unfragmented aquatic, riparian, and upland habitats. Fish Creek has been recognized for its unique riparian habitat and good condition. Fish Creek contains the largest breeding population of willow flycatchers known in the State. The area has been described as an “outstanding example of good riparian management” (1998 Southwestern Willow Flycatchers Surveys on U.S. Forest Service Lands in Utah). Willow flycatchers breed in shrubby or woodland habitats, usually adjacent to, or near, surface water or saturated soils. Willow flycatchers can be found from the inlet into Scofield Reservoir to the confluence with Gooseberry Creek. Fish Creek contains extensive tracts of willow-dominated habitat that is at least 100 meters wide and more than 500 meters long (Banding and Genetic Sampling of Willow Flycatchers in Utah: 1997 and 1998), making it ideal habitat for willow flycatchers and other birds. Fifty-four species of birds have been observed in Fish Creek during the breeding season. Ideal habitat in good condition is rare in the Upper Price River subwatershed, in the larger Price River watershed, and in the ecoregion.

Fish Creek also contains numerous mammalian species including beavers, moose, mink, muskrat, foxes, bobcat, snowshoe hare, black bear, mule deer, and elk. The variety of vegetation, remoteness, and the large size of the Fish Creek area provides excellent habitat for elk calving and rearing. Other species such as the Utah milk snake, northern goshawk, and Williamson’s sapsucker may be found there.

In addition to the outstandingly remarkable wildlife value, the Fish Creek area also provides increasingly rare opportunities for fishing in semi-primitive areas containing few roads and impoundments. These stretches of streams are important to the health of Scofield Reservoir, which is considered one of the three most important flatwater fisheries in Utah. Fish Creek and Gooseberry Creek are also critical spawning areas for the cutthroat trout in Scofield Reservoir.

The Fish Creek area provides an environment for the recreationist that is unroaded and rather pristine. It provides an area for hunting, backpacking, day hiking, berry gathering, fishing, bird watching, horseback riding, and other kinds of activities where one can enjoy solitude and quiet. There are few areas in the northern portion of the Manti-La Sal National Forest where one can enjoy these pursuits without an ATV or other motorized vehicle’s sounds.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

Red Rock Forests is committed to assisting the Manti-La Sal National forest by providing volunteers and partnering in managing any and all segments that are designated as Wild and Scenic within the forest.

Local, county and state governments have indicated their disapproval of designation of Fish Creek and Gooseberry Creek as a Wild and Scenic River and their disinterest in any involvement in any management partnerships or funding.

[illegible]

Name of River: Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek

Studied: 4.49 miles from the Upper Left Fork of Huntington Creek to the confluence with Huntington Creek in Huntington Canyon.

Location: *Coordinates are in UTM Zone 12 N. NAD 83, meters*

Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek	Manti – La Sal National Forest, Ferron and Price Ranger Districts, Emery County, Utah				Congressional District 2	
	Start		End		Classification	Studied Miles
	Northing	Easting	Northing	Easting		
Segment 1	4376482	480759	4372300	486303	Scenic	4.49

The Lower Left Fork of Huntington creek flows through well-defined canyons with steep side slopes and rock outcrops.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document:

Final Eligibility Determination of Wild and Scenic Rivers of Rivers, March 2003, (USDA Forest Service Supplement to the Manti-La Sal NF Final Eligibility Determination of Wild and Scenic Rivers, 2005)

Determination of Free-flow:

There are no diversions on the stream channel and it is free of impoundments.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs):

Scenic – The beauty and ruggedness of the canyon is the outstandingly remarkable value for which the Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek was selected for consideration as a WSR.

The colorful geology and aspen, mountain brush, conifers, and riparian vegetation along the Lower Left Fork provide an outstanding scenic canyon environment. The north facing slopes are covered with a combination of conifer and aspen. The south facing slopes have splashes of conifer and aspen, but mostly mountain brush and sagebrush.

Riparian vegetation covers the stream banks. Rock outcrops and ledges add variety and a rugged beauty to this canyon. Due to the narrowness of this canyon bottom, there is not room for the creek and a roadway. Access into and up the Lower Left Fork drainage is by non-motorized trail. The relatively wide creek cuts through rock, rock ledges, and outcrops. The canyon bottom is replete with various conifers, cottonwoods, and aspen interspersed with mountain brush variety.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River: Scenic

It is accessible in some places by road and roads occasionally reach or bridge the river. The presence of grazing and evidence of past logging exists.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses –

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0 – 4.49	Forest Service	1436.8
	Total	1436.8

The economy and communities on the Huntington Creek drainage depend upon regulation of limited water resources. The Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek is the primary tributary of Huntington Creek. Huntington Cleveland Irrigation Company has multiple diversions for industrial, municipal, and agricultural use. All water is delivered to each of these diversions through the watercourse of the Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek.

A very large part of the economic base of Carbon, Emery, and Sanpete Counties comes from generating electricity, providing those plants with fuel, and the auxiliary businesses associated with the workforce employed by those companies conducting business throughout the drainage.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – There are no coal mining operations or oil or gas activities within the Lower Left Fork drainage. PacifiCorp relies on the Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek to deliver water critical to its Huntington Power Plant operations at the mouth of Huntington Canyon (PacifiCorp, July 11, 2003).

Water Resources Development – Water resources and their development are the lifeblood of Emery County. The annual precipitation rate in the valley, where the population is concentrated, is about eight inches. This places the area in a semi-arid climate classification. Supplemental water resources must come

from somewhere else. The solution has been diversions from streams that originate on the Wasatch Plateau and from Huntington Creek.

Over-Appropriation of Existing Water Supplies

Much of the West Colorado River Basin is over-appropriated and, as a result, late season shortages exist in many of the agricultural areas. The San Rafael River is the most over-appropriated drainage in the basin.

Table 1. Perfected water rights versus the yields of the major drainages within the West Colorado River Basin.

Water Rights versus Yield Perfected Water Rights			
Drainage	Yield (acre foot)	Use	Acre Foot
Price	138,000	Irrigation	80,566
		M&I	64,147
		Subtotal	144,713
San Rafael	233,000	Irrigation	267,003
		M&I	41,128
		Subtotal	308,131
Dirty Devil	147,000	Irrigation	57,059
		M&I	27,864
		Subtotal	84,923
Escalante	86,000	Irrigation	14,616
		M&I	4,207
		Subtotal	18,823
Paria	21,000	Irrigation	6,644
		M&I	5,966
		Subtotal	12,610

Table 5-21 of the "West Colorado River Basin Water Plan".

The economy and communities on the Huntington Creek drainage depend upon regulation of limited water resources. The Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek is the primary tributary of Huntington Creek. Upstream flow regulation of the Huntington Creek drainage is constant except during brief periods of spring runoff when flows from tributaries below the reservoirs exceed the capabilities of the downstream users to utilize the water. During summer months, the flows from upstream storage reservoirs are regulated to meet the demands of industrial, agricultural, and municipal users. During the spring and winter months, storage reservoirs are filled and flows are reduced to meet demands of industrial, municipal, and stock water users.

Records from the past few years substantiate the regulated uses. The average annual flow in Huntington Creek is about 51,000 acre-feet as recorded by the State Engineer's Office. Flows and diversions over the last few years are shown below:

Table 2. Flows and Diversions in Huntington Creek.

Year	Annual Flows	Total Diversions Acre-feet.	Industrial Use Acre-feet	% Industry
1991	50,000	50,000	8,600	17

1992	43,900	41,400	8,820	21
1994	44,900	44,400	10,880	25
1995	73,700	70,000	8,354	12
1996	66,100	66,100	10,924	17
1998	84,100	82,600	9,142	11
1999	75,250	73,500	10,950	15
2000	53,500	48,000	12,016	25

Flows in the river during a typical year (1991) are as follows:

Table 3. Flows in Huntington Creek during 1991.

Month	Flow Rate (cubic feet/second)			Flow (acre-feet)
Min	Min	Max	Mean	
October	25	73	45	3,400
November	13	30	22	1,812
December	12	24	17	1,864
January	9	19	14	1,699
February	7	22	11	1,432
March	13	22	16	1,838
April	16	49	32	2,486
May	48	185	115	7,632
June	132	234	188	11,642
July	64	178	92	6,444
August	48	102	66	4,882
September	41	109	65	4,944

It is impossible to consider management of Huntington Creek and its tributaries as an isolated river segment. The design of water storage facilities, delivery systems (canals and pipelines), and the water demand from the two coal-fired power plants (Hunter and Huntington), has created a system that incorporates all of the San Rafael River system. The depletion of stored water in Electric Lake and the subsequent leasing of water from Huntington/Cleveland Irrigation Company members have, in effect, placed water that will be used by the power company in the four reservoirs on the Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek and in Joes Valley Reservoir on Cottonwood Creek. These transactions also affect the value and the use of water stored in Millsite Reservoir on Ferron Creek.

Five major reservoirs impound water at the head of Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek. Several smaller man-made earthen reservoirs currently exist or have existed in the area. Plans to enlarge Rolfson Reservoir in Lake Canyon are being evaluated at this time. After evaluation, Upper Huntington and Little Madson reservoirs that are breached may be put back in service.

Huntington Cleveland Irrigation Company has multiple diversions for industrial, municipal, and agricultural use. All water is delivered to each of these diversions through the watercourse of the Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek. These diversions and canals regulate water to Carbon, Emery, and Sanpete Counties.

An impoundment along Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek is actively being sought by Huntington Cleveland Irrigation Company in order to better control, distribute, preserve, and regulate water for its

owners. Engineering studies have been completed on one reservoir site (Johnny Jensen Hollow Reservoir) and others are currently being looked at. Although any potential impoundment would likely be above or below the stretch of river currently under consideration, WSR status upstream or downstream could have a direct impact on these projects and use of water administered by Huntington Cleveland Irrigation Company. Designation would make future improvements or additions questionable because they would require federal funding or loans.

Prior to regulation, the natural stream flows were unpredictable and destructive. The uncontrolled flows were destructive both to man and the environment. Control allowed channels to fill in with vegetation. Riparian zones healed. It is important to Emery County that the (Wild and Scenic River) report stress the fact that conditions in Huntington Canyon are largely the result of manipulation by water users. (Ray Peterson, Emery County Public Lands Department, March 2006)

Because of the current water loss condition at Electric Lake, it is not possible to predict with certainty what actions PacifiCorp may need to take in the future to secure a long-term water source for the Huntington Power Plant. Better control of existing water through possible new impoundments and other measures would result in more efficient use of existing water. PacifiCorp has investigated construction of a lower site reservoir to better regulate water from this drainage. This is one of several ways to obtain additional water supplies for a possible fourth unit at Hunter Power Plant. If shares were to yield .5 acre-foot/share instead of .3, that would increase the water available to PacifiCorp.

Wild and Scenic River designation could also impact potential federally assisted water resource development projects. Salinity projects are being developed in the area with the goal of reducing the salinity in the Colorado River by providing pressurized water delivery systems to local agricultural users. These projects significantly reduce water loss from seepage, evaporation, and over-application. Salinity projects are typically federally subsidized. Without that subsidy, local farmers are unlikely to pursue widespread use of these systems.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – State Route 31, a National Scenic Byway, is adjacent to the eastern limit of the segment in Huntington Canyon and is promoted as part of the “Energy Loop”. The scenic byway corridor was designated because of the distinctive combination of scenery, heritage resources, and energy development. Forest Road #50014 passes about one mile west of the river segment near Miller Flat Reservoir. The Left Fork of the Huntington Creek National Recreation Trail(131) parallels the total length of the watercourse. The Forks of the Huntington Campground is located at the confluence of the Lower Left Fork of Huntington and Huntington Creeks.

Grazing Activities – The north side of the Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek drainage is within the Candland Allotment. The south side of the drainage is within the Horse Creek Allotment. Both are sheep allotments.

Recreation Activities – The Left Fork of the Huntington Creek National Recreation Trail (131) parallels the total length of the watercourse. The Forks of the Huntington Campground is located at the confluence of the Lower Left Fork of Huntington and Huntington Creeks. The area is popular for dispersed camping and fishing.

Other Resource Activities –

Fish/Wildlife - The Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek provides predominantly brown trout with an occasional rainbow or Yellowstone cutthroat trout. There are isolated populations of Colorado River cutthroat trout within the drainage.

There are no known threatened or endangered plants or wildlife species in this river segment, but the Forest Service monitors the area for the northern goshawk. Golden eagles and red-tailed hawks do inhabit the corridor. Bald eagles are known to migrate through the area in the early

winter. The watercourse area contains potential nesting habitat for peregrine falcons and a variety of bats. Beaver also inhabit the canyon.

The river corridor is very important mule deer and elk habitat, especially for fawning, calving and rearing of these big game animals. Various predator species exist throughout the watershed (mountain lions, coyotes, and bears).

Cultural/Historical – The earliest Native American inhabitants used the area seasonally for hunting, gathering, and procurement of other resources. The later Fremont Culture also used the higher elevations for hunting and gathering on a seasonal basis as did the Ute tribes and their immediate ancestors. Eventually the westward expansion of Euro-American settlement displaced these cultures. The prehistoric native cultures are represented in the Huntington Creek drainage by alcove sites (rock shelters), open campsites, and rock art sites.

Early historic activities in this drainage included timber harvest, sheep and cattle grazing, and some mining. There is very little historic evidence of prehistoric or historic human activities in this drainage due to its extremely steep and rugged terrain. The only historic evidence remaining are the remnants of an old road and scattered aspen carvings associated with Basque shepherds. Prehistoric sites are limited to short-term campsites identified by scant remains of stone tools and the debris resulting from their manufacture.

Special Designations – The Left Fork of the Huntington Creek National Recreation Trail is located parallel to the river. The State of Utah has identified the Left Fork of Huntington Creek as a Blue Ribbon Fishery.

Socio-Economic Environment – A very large part of the economic base of Carbon, Emery, and Sanpete Counties comes from generating electricity, providing those plants with fuel, and auxiliary businesses associated with the workforce employed by those companies conducting business along the corridor. Apart from the local needs is the rapid growth in electrical demand along the Wasatch Front. PacifiCorp's coal-fired power plants, including the Huntington Power Plant, are the primary sources of electricity for the Wasatch Front due, in part, to existing transmission facilities from the plants. At this point, there are insufficient transmission facilities leading from other plants to meet growth needs. Rolling brownouts would be expected along the Wasatch Front if regulations controlling water use were tightened and thereby limiting the Huntington Plant's ability to produce power.

Most of Emery County's employment is in the Mining, Government, and Trade, Transportation and Utilities Industries (Governor's Office of Planning and Budget 2003). The mining, trade, and utilities industries rely on water to sustain and develop their business.

Figure 1. Nonagricultural Employment by Major Industry: 2001

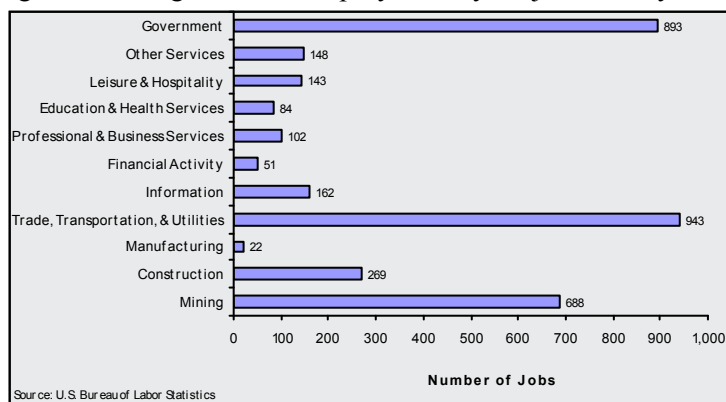
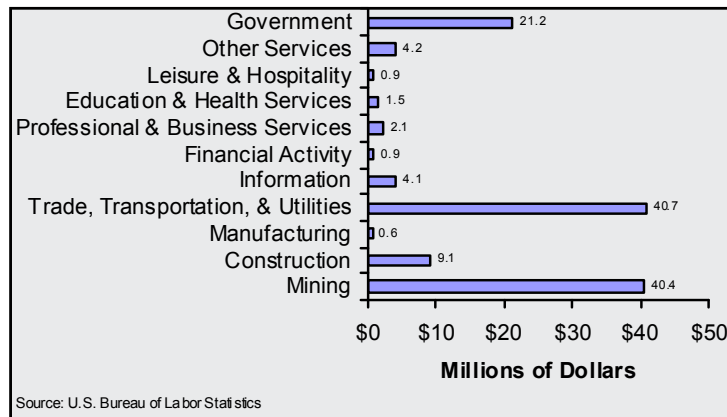


Figure 2. Nonagricultural Payroll Wages by Major Industry: 2001



PacifiCorp Power Plants in Emery County generate 17,400 megawatts annually. At a sale value of \$20/megawatt, the annual revenues would be \$350,000,000. They employ 750 workers (including their mining operations) with an annual payroll of over \$64,000,000. The addition of the proposed Hunter #4 project (located in the Huntington drainage) would add an additional 350 needed jobs in Emery County (see appendix A).

The following reports support the important uses of water to employment and income:

1997 Agriculture Report for Emery County

Acres irrigated - 55,000

- Value of Farms & Improvements - \$100,000,000
- Annual Crop Sales - \$1,300,000
- Number of Cattle and Calves - 28,500
- Annual Livestock Sales - \$5,000,000
- Total Annual Agricultural Sales - \$11,000,000

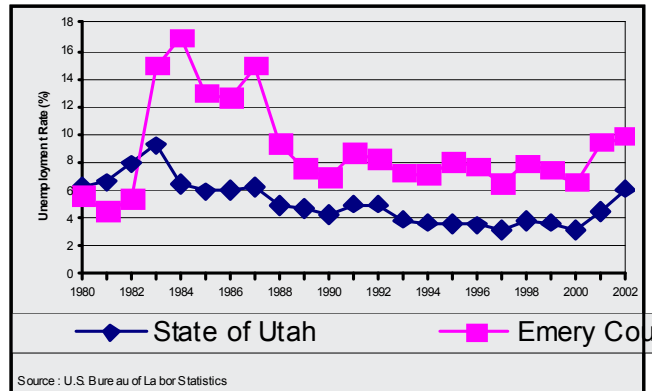
Table 4. Municipal Water Demand and Income

	Huntington	Cleveland	Elmo	North Emery	Total
Municipal - Population	2,131	508	368	1,400	4,400
Number of Connections	856	185	129	460	1,630
Annual Municipal Water Income	\$77,000	\$16,600	\$11,600	\$145,000	\$250,000

*See appendix B for a report on economics and water projects.

A sustainable economy is difficult to develop in an arid rural community without the continued ability to use, transfer, and sell water. The unemployment rate in Emery County (9.8%, compared to 6% for the State) would continue to increase if water development projects are curtailed.

Figure 3. Unemployment Rate in Emery County.



Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is the USFS.

The increased administration and associated cost of managing the river segment would be the responsibility of the Manti-La Sal National Forest. Forest Service funds are projected to decline over the course of the next planning period. Emery County Commissioners and the State of Utah do not support a WSR designation and have stated they are not interested in sharing administrative costs associated with managing a river designated under the WSR Act.

Land acquisition: The Forest Service manages land within the corridor of Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek.

Define the River Corridor: The river corridor would extend for the length of the river segment and ¼ mile in width from each bank of the river. That is, the corridor would run approximately 4.49 miles in length by ½ mile wide. The estimated cost of a land survey to meet the established corridor including the private land segment is approximately \$16,500.

Developing a Management Plan: A management plan would require the expertise of a number of specialists. It would take about two months to complete. Developmental cost would be approximately \$28,000.

Development of Lands and Facilities: Install two interpretive displays outlining the recreational opportunities within the canyon located at the trailhead north of Miller Flat reservoir and at the trailhead of Forks of Huntington Campground. Estimated cost: \$6,000.

First year start up costs on WSR: Approximately \$65,500. Additional Annual Operating Costs: Approximately \$26,900.

Maintenance: Trail maintenance for the Left Fork of the Huntington Creek National Recreation Trail is about \$6,000 annually. Maintenance of the interpretive signs would require approximately \$2000 annually.

User Capacities: No formal study on use or capacity purposes has been made. The cost of such a study is estimated at \$15,000.

Land Survey: No survey is necessary as the corridor is National Forest System land.

Resource Protection: Visits by personnel: \$12,400 annually.

Enhancement projects: Control of invasive plants. Estimated cost: \$6,500 annually.

Reporting to Congress on WSR: Preparation of Annual Report for Congress: Approximately \$1000 annually.

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

Neither the State of Utah nor Emery County supports any designation. They have stated they would not participate in any cost sharing or administration of this proposal.

The Utah Governor's Office of Planning and Budget wrote:

The State concludes that neither Huntington Creek nor Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek meet the suitability standard of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and reserves comment on the eligibility of the creek based upon the comments above and the provisions of the state law. (August 24, 2004)

Emery County Commissioners wrote:

Emery County opposes Wild and Scenic River designation of river segments within Emery County and counties downstream from Emery County. We want it to be unmistakable from comments provided to the Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service in their respective Wild and Scenic River (W&SR) planning processes that our position has remained clear and consistent. (July 2004)

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any local zoning and/or land use controls that appear to conflict with protection of river values.

There are no non-federal lands within this river corridor. However, neither the State nor County supports designation of this segment. It is unlikely that either the State or County would pass zoning ordinances that would protect outstandingly remarkable scenery value. Emery County documents do not support a Wild and Scenic River designation.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

The Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, Congressmen Jim Matheson and Chris Cannon, and the Emery County Commissioners have written in opposition to designation. The majority of County residents, water users, and businesspersons who have sent e-mails and letters to the Forest Service opposed designation. The preponderance of comments from attendees at the Forest Plan Revision public meetings held in Castle Dale was against designation. Environmental groups and individuals have attended public meetings to support designation for all eligible river segments.

The Governor's Office of Planning and Budget wrote:

The State concludes that neither Huntington Creek nor the Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek meet the suitability standard of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and reserve comment on the eligibility of the creek based upon the comments above and the provisions of the state law.

The Emery County Commissioners wrote:

Emery County opposes Wild and Scenic River designation of river segments within Emery County and counties downstream from Emery County.

We believe that the identified river segments are not suitable for designation. W&SR designation is not necessary to protect the values of river segments in question. Existing management options are available to effectively protect those values. (July 8, 2004)

Congressman Chris Cannon wrote:

I write to inform you of my opposition to Wild and Scenic River (W&SR) designation of river segments within Carbon and Emery Counties...

... Additionally, W&SR designation is not necessary to protect the values of river segments in question. Existing management options are available to effectively protect those values.

Finally, W&SR designation could be devastating on a socio-economic basis. The limited water resource in Emery and other counties are already over allocated. Any interruption of these resources will have a far reaching impact locally regionally and, in the case of electrical generation, nationally. Any such designation could have a harmful consequence on water rights and proper land management, could cripple agriculture, and have serious impacts on the economic viability of the local economy. (August 25, 2004)

Congressman Jim Matheson wrote:

Local officials in Emery County are particularly concerned about the proposal to designate river segments within the County as a Wild and Scenic River because of the potential impact that such a designation could have on water rights and land management across the West. Throughout Emery County and much of Utah, a large system of canals, ditches and impoundments save and move water from one watershed to another, sending water where it is most needed. The ability to transfer and sell water rights during drought years is especially critical. There is question as to what effect Wild and Scenic River designation could have on this practice, given that the rivers in question are a part of this larger water system.

I hope that you will work with the local officials to ensure that no actions taken on behalf of your agency will encumber the ability of Emery County to provide water resources for its residents. (August 3, 2004)

The Huntington Cleveland Irrigation Company wrote:

In reviewing the proposed area for any of the three possible designations it is the opinion of Hunting Cleveland Irrigation Company (HCIC) that none of these designations would be acceptable to us...

Any restrictions placed upon us could have catastrophic results to the already difficult distribution and delivery of our water. HCIC feels Congress didn't have areas like this in mind when they created the Wild and Scenic Rivers act due to the fact that it would totally devastate the local economy & way of life. When the Act was passed in 1968, a number of river systems were classified within the Act itself. Those river systems (see section 1273 & 1274 of the original act) were large rivers. Huntingtons' river system doesn't really fit this profile. HCIC feels that we have been as good of stewards of the environment as is possible and not maintaining our system would be more detrimental to the environment than the current course. We strongly urge careful consideration to this process, as decisions made here can be very devastating to people in this drainage for a long time. (June 25, 2003)

Other organizations such as Trout Unlimited and Red Rock Forests Congress support designation.

Trout Unlimited wrote:

The three creeks currently under suitability review for Wild and Scenic River designation (Fish Creek, including Gooseberry Creek, Huntington Creek and the Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek) are among the most highly valued trout fisheries in Utah and, accordingly, are of great interest to TU... Because of their recreational and scenic value,

they contribute significantly to local and regional economies. These streams merit Forest Service care and protection.

...Even if you determine they are not suitable for W&S designation, TU encourages you to take every appropriate step to protect and preserve the recreational, scenic, wildlife and other values identified in your eligibility analysis. (July 7, 2004)

Red Rock Forests wrote:

Again we think that much of the decision process in determining which rivers to bring to the level of suitability analysis was arbitrary and capricious. We do not believe it is reasonable to substitute the opinions of local politicians that likely originate from a bias against, and a lack of understanding of, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act for the evaluations of resource specialists. (July, 2004)

Draft EIS Comments from local government, power/energy companies, water conservancy districts and residents were strongly opposed to WSR designation of Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek. Among the variety of reasons for opposing designation were: the significance of industrial, agricultural and municipal water resources and the need for further development; the ability to secure federal funding for salinity projects; and the water conservancy's ability to build new structures and upgrade facilities. Because Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek is a tributary to Huntington Creek many of the same concerns regarding designation were voiced.

Comments from individuals and several groups voiced strong support for designation. Red Rock Forests is committed to assisting the Manti-La Sal National forest by providing volunteers and partnering in managing any and all segments that are designated as Wild and Scenic within the forest. All of the three organized campaigns support a positive suitability finding and designation of this segment.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation is in opposition to Emery County's General County Plan. The 1996 Plan as modified in 1999 states:

This plan includes extensive discussion and policy statements regarding the County's water resources, which apply both to public and private lands. It should nevertheless be reemphasized that Emery County opposes all efforts to designate any of its creeks, rivers, draws, and dry washes in such a way as to diminish the ability of Utah and Emery County to put its water resources to beneficial use. In particular, the county opposes Wild and Scenic Rivers designation of any of its streams, especially those without year-round flow, which could result in assertions of minimum water flows preempting upstream appropriation or reallocation of water rights for the benefit of Emery County businesses, communities and other water users. Utah is a member of the Colorado River Compact and Emery County believes that such an application of the Wild and Scenic River Act would violate its rights under said Compact.

"Wilderness", "Wild and Scenic River", and "Endangered Species" designations are federally legislated. These designations will adversely affect all rivers and streams in Emery County. The intent of this legislation is contrary to existing state water laws and to the well-being of the County. The County's position will be to oppose any taking of existing water rights, both diversion and storage. The County declares that any water dedicated to federal use must be appropriated under state law. The date of that appropriation will be set in accordance with state law. The County further declares that existing users have the right to fully develop their existing diversion and storage rights.

Designation is not consistent with Emery County plans.

Designation would not be consistent with PacifiCorp development plans, the Hunting/Cleveland Irrigation Company, Castle Valley Special Service District, and local agricultural interests.

The Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek is located on National Forest System land. The 1986 Manti-La Sal Forest Plan management area emphasis for the Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek is to provide semi-primitive non-motorized recreation opportunities. Opportunities within the corridor segment include dispersed camping, hiking, horseback riding, fishing, camping, and hunting. Motorized and mechanical use within the Lower Left Fork drainage is unauthorized. Sheep graze the upper reaches of the drainage.

The 1986 Forest Plan is inconsistent with designation in that it does not prohibit water uses or development.

(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

River system or basin integrity is considered to include water quantity, water quality, and timing of flows in relation to natural conditions. In the Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek, the quantity and quality of water are comparable to a natural condition. The timing is almost completely regulated by upstream reservoirs.

The Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek flows through Huntington and Cleveland Reservoirs. Some of its tributary streams are also regulated by reservoirs. Under recent operations, the Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek contributes about two-thirds of the flow in Huntington Creek at the confluence. This ratio, however, depends entirely on the operation of the reservoirs in these drainages. The integrity of this segment is compromised by these existing reservoirs.

Water quality in the Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek is protected by the State's anti-degradation policy, which states:

Waters whose existing quality is better than the established standards for the designated uses will be maintained at high quality unless it is determined by the [Utah Water Quality] Board, after appropriate intergovernmental coordination and public participation in concert with the Utah continuing planning process, that allowing lower water quality is necessary to accommodate important economic or social development in the area in which the waters are located. However, existing in-stream water uses shall be maintained and protected. No water quality degradation is allowable which would interfere with or become injurious to existing in-stream water uses.

The contribution of the Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek is important to Huntington Creek.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

Red Rock Forests is committed to assisting the Manti-La Sal National forest by providing volunteers and partnering in managing any and all segments that are designated as Wild and Scenic within the forest.

Local, county and state governments have indicated their disapproval of designation of Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek as a Wild and Scenic River and their disinterest in any involvement in any management partnerships or funding.

Note: Appendix A: "Economic Impact Analysis, Proposed Hunter #4 Unit" and Appendix B: "Benefits of County Financial Support to San Rafael Soil Conservation District" were attached to this Suitability Evaluation Report (SER). Please see them attached as appendices to the Suitability Evaluation Report for Huntington Creek.

[illegible]

Name of River: Hammond Canyon

Studied: 10.4 miles, from headwaters to Forest boundary

Eligible: Same

	Manti-La Sal National Forest, Monticello Ranger District, San Juan County, Utah	Congressional District 2		
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Hammond Canyon	Northing/ 4171162 Easting/ 605432	Northing/ 4170693 Easting/ 616862	Scenic	10.4

Appendix A – Suitability Evaluation Reports

off the southeastern portion of Elk Ridge trend NW-SE, as does the northern lobe of Hammond Canyon. The location of the stream forming the southern lobe of the canyon was probably heavily influenced by east-west trending faults. This watercourse has steep, vertical spires and large alcove features along the base of 400 to 800 foot escarpments of the Organ Rock formation. The channel descends through a deep gorge, with a variety of erosive sandstone outcrops. The valley bottom is flat and narrow. The watercourse has down cut through the sandstones of Navajo, Chinle, Moenkopi, Cutler, and Rico formations, creating a steep narrow canyon and side canyons. The channel is mainly in exposed bedrock. There is some perennial water in the upper and middle sections of the watercourse. Potholes are frequent in these areas and are filled during summer storms. Runoff in the lower half quickly disappears in the sandy soils or evaporates. Hammond Canyon contains both intermittent and perennial streams and was identified as having flows sufficient to support the outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs).

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Eligibility of Wild and Scenic Rivers – Manti-La Sal National Forest (March 2003), Re-evaluation of Eligible River Segments on the Monticello Ranger District (2006), Re-evaluation of Eight River Segments on the Monticello Ranger District (June 2007)

Determination of Free-flow: There are no known diversions, impoundments, or other channel modifications of Hammond Canyon on National Forest System lands.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs):

Geology – Hammond Canyon incises the eastern side of the Elk Ridge Anticline. The northern “lobe” of the canyon appears to have been influenced by the dominant fracture patterns of the rocks in the area. Most of the canyons coming off the southeastern portion of Elk Ridge trend NW-SE, as does the northern lobe of Hammond Canyon. The location of the stream forming the southern lobe of the canyon was probably heavily influenced by east-west trending faults. The canyon is up to approximately 1,000 feet deep, with steeply cut walls. In some places erosional remnants have produced spires and fins hundreds of feet high. The stratigraphy exposed in the canyon goes from late Pennsylvanian through the Triassic. Large expanses of the aeolian Wingate formation (large rounded fossil sand dunes) with contrasting ponderosa pine are located in the eastern (lower) portion of Hammond Canyon. The northern and western portion of the canyon has extensive exposures of white Cedar Mesa sandstone with dark green vegetation. Hammond Canyon has a high rating for abundance of geologic features, diversity of features, and educational and scientific value. Based on the overall abundance and diversity of these geologic attributes, they would be similar to or equivalent to areas of regional importance.

Scenery – Scenic attractiveness of Hammond Canyon is rated Distinct within the Forest’s Scenery Management System. Hammond Canyon possesses an excellent combination of vegetative and geologic contrasts. Ponderosa pine and Douglas fir are well developed in the upper reaches of Hammond Canyon and contrast with the white cliffs of Cedar Mesa Sandstone. Hammond Canyon also exposes the Wingate Sandstone as it begins to cut through the east limb of the Elk Ridge anticline. This massive sandstone, so prominent within the canyonlands region, uniquely contrasts with ponderosa pine in Hammond Canyon. Exposed brownish red Moenkopi Formation sits atop the white Cedar Mesa Sandstone. This provides an additional color contrast visible in places where the upper slopes can be seen. Geologic features are abundant and include cliffs with greater than 1000 feet of relief and a number of free standing pinnacles. Hammond Canyon has an abundance of oak brush and mountain brush which change color seasonally and add to the distinctiveness of the scenery. Archaeological sites of these canyons enhance their scenic character. Hammond Canyon is rated high for diversity of view and special features. It is rated moderate for seasonal variations. Cultural modifications are highly appropriate. Based on the overall quality and uniqueness, the scenery is rated as regionally important.

Cultural – Hammond Canyon has prehistoric archaeological sites that span Archaic through Ancestral Puebloan times along with Historic period use by European-Americans and Utes. Recent work in the canyon has added eight prehistoric sites to the Manti-La Sal NF database including an important village with two-story buildings, prehistoric road segments, and a great kiva indicative of a community center. There are, no doubt, many more sites that remain undocumented within the canyon. Documented prehistoric sites in Hammond Canyon largely date to the Pueblo I-Pueblo III period and include cliff dwellings, isolated granaries, rock art sites, open air habitation sites, and other facets of the Ancestral Puebloan culture. Several known sites in the vicinity of Hammond Canyon lie outside the ¼ mile buffer required by the Wild and Scenic study. Even if we are extremely generous with the ¼ mile buffer, less than 20 to 25 sites are documented in Hammond Canyon at this time although hundreds of sites are known beyond the ¼ mile buffer area. None of the sites exhibit evidence of hydraulic agriculture. Most of the documented sites are high above the stream channel and are related to mesa top farming, not riverine adaptations. The documented sites possess a range of integrity from nearly destroyed to intact, standing conditions, but site integrity is generally good. The documented sites are generally considered eligible to the National Register of Historic Places and are currently being included in the South Cottonwood Watershed Archaeological District nomination being prepared by the Manti-La Sal National Forest. If eligibility for listing or actual listing on the National Register is evidence of National significance, then these sites exceed local significance. These sites may contribute information important to understanding prehistory in the area and are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D. These sites are not necessarily part of the Cedar Mesa phenomenon that occurs on BLM lands west of Comb Ridge, but they are important components of the Mesa Verde regions archaeological heritage. The identification of the large village in Hammond Canyon with community integrative features (roads and great kiva) suggests local and regional scale social integration commonly associated with the Chaco Regional system. Elements of the Chacoan Regional System are not positively identified to the west of Comb Ridge. This village provides an important link between the Milk Ranch Point community and the Red Knobs and Cottonwood Falls communities along South Cottonwood Wash and provides evidence of complex social processes developing in the area as early as the late A.D. 800s. Current use by Native Americans is unsubstantiated. There may be gathering of sumac, pine nuts, etc. in the lower elevations of the segment by members of the Navajo Nation. The significance of these resources, therefore, is important at both local and regional scales providing important research and interpretive potential, indicating a high cultural value for this segment.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River: Scenic

Largely primitive and undeveloped. No substantial signs of human activity. The canyon bottom is unroaded. Forest Development Roads (FDRs) 088 and 200 follow the ridgeline to the west of the upper headwaters, but are outside of the watercourse corridor. The Posey Trail, Cream Pots Trail and Hammond Trail (166, 005, and 012) either parallel or cross the corridor associated with Hammond Canyon. Trailheads for these trails are located at the upper end of the canyon.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – The Hammond Canyon segment contains both public lands managed by the US Forest Service and Ute Tribal lands. The table below shows ownership by river mileage. Tribal lands in the corridor are unoccupied but have been used for agriculture in the past. The Tribal lands contain several structures associated with past agricultural practices.

River Mile	Ownership/Acres
0 – 7.2	US Forest Service/ 2304 acres
7.2 – 7.6	Tribal land/ 115 acres
7.6- 8.2	US Forest Service/ 19 acres
8.2- 8.3	Tribal land/ 16 acres
8.3- 10.7	US Forest Service/ 774 acres

Water Resources Development – There are known dams, diversions, or other channel modifications on the Hammond Canyon segment, although not on Forest lands. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – No roads exist within the eligible stream corridor. The Posey, Cream Pots, and Hammond Canyon Trails either parallel or cross the eligible corridor. Trailheads for the trails are located outside the corridor. Several old structures and machinery associated with past agricultural activities exist on the Tribal lands.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – No current mining exist within the corridor, but old claims exist on the north side of the canyon and at the head of the canyon. No leases exist within the corridor, but three oil and gas leases are nearby: two on the north side and one on the south side of the canyon.

Grazing Activities – The entire corridor is grazed and is within the Babylon Pastures cattle allotment.

Recreation Activities – The Posey, Cream Pots, and Hammond Canyon Trails receive a fair amount of use and provide excellent opportunities for hiking, backpacking and horseback riding in a primitive setting. Several guides provide multi-day backpacking trips into the area. Several ancestral Puebloan ruins in the canyon are popular sites to visit.

Other Resource Activities – As described above, agriculture has been practiced in the past on the Tribal lands and may be implemented again on these lands. The tribe may also apply for access to their tribal lands with vehicles which may potentially change the character of the lower canyon if it were authorized.

Special Designations – Approximately 70 percent of the segment is located within the Hammond-Notch Roadless Area 10-437. This area is currently managed under the 2001 Roadless Rule which prohibits most timber harvesting and construction of new roads. The entire corridor is within an area that is not administratively available for leasing and is also within the proposed South Cottonwood Archeological District.

Socio-Economic Environment – The eligible segment is located within San Juan County, the nearest population bases are Monticello and Blanding. The socio-economic setting of San Juan County is one based primarily on the service and tourism industries. The main reason that visitors come to the area is the incredible scenery and the wide range of outdoor activities available in the surrounding public lands. While the majority of visitors to the area come to see surrounding National Parks the Abajo Mountains and Elk Ridge in the Monticello Ranger District provide a respite from the heat of the desert in the summer and draw considerable use during the fall big game hunting seasons.

San Juan County is a depressed (EZ/EC) county. While the rest of the country has enjoyed a large increase in wages and job earnings, San Juan County has been declining. The average earnings have fallen from \$27,903 in 1970 to \$22,480 in 2000. Net farm income was \$9 million in 1970 and by 2000 had dropped to \$2 million. In 2000, 28% of transfer payments (retirement, disability, Medicare, dividends, interest, rent, welfare) were from welfare. In 2001 the unemployment rate was 9.1% in San Juan County compared to 4.4% statewide and 4.8% nationally. When unemployment figures on the Reservations are factored in, the unemployment rate for the County is 22%. On portions of the Navajo Indian Reservation the unemployment rate is well over 50%. With 92% of the county in State, Federal or Navajo Reservation lands, any decision a federal land management agency makes has an impact on the county population.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is the USFS.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

There is no demonstrated commitment to share the administration of the eligible section by the State or its political subdivision

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any local zoning and/or land use controls that appear to conflict with protection of river values.

The non-federal land is zoned for agriculture. The county is not interested in changing this zoning to protect any river values as it is their opinion that sufficient policies are in place to protect those values.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

In verbal comments received at the Suitability Open House in Moab and Monticello Utah, San Juan County was opposed to any other "layers of protection" for the segment. The County generally feels that there are sufficient policies in place to protect the values associated with the eligible segment. The Utah Rivers Council and Red Rock Forests have both expressed support for designating this segment.

Draft EIS Comments

Comments from the San Juan County Commission, City of Monticello and local residents strongly oppose WSR designation for Hammond Canyon. Among the variety of reasons for opposing designation were: the BLM has not considered their portion of Hammond Canyon eligible; Tribal land ownership is not accurate; fear of a loss of grazing, mining and oil exploration opportunities that would effect San Juan's economy; the corridor is protected through the Forest Plan and a variety of archeological laws; land status of the tribe would effect management; and the flows are insufficient.

Comments from individuals and groups not living in San Juan County voiced strong support for WSR designation of Hammond Canyon. Among the variety of reasons for supporting designation were: it would contribute to the basin integrity, it is habitat for the Mexican spotted owl; and the canyon is unique; and support for the values. Red Rock Forests is committed to assisting the Manti-La Sal National forest by providing volunteers and partnering in managing any and all segments that are designated as Wild and Scenic within the forest. All of the three organized campaigns support a positive suitability finding and designation of this segment.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation would be consistent with management of those portions of the stream within the Roadless Areas. The stream segment passes through two different areas of management emphasis as outlined in the Manti-La Sal Land and Resource Management Plan of 1986. The majority of Hammond Canyon lies within the Semi-Primitive Recreation emphasis area where the management direction is to provide semi-primitive recreation opportunities. Other uses may occur so long as they are rehabilitated to reflect as

close as possible previous undisturbed conditions. Designation would be consistent with this direction. The remainder of Hammond Canyon is within an area where the management emphasis is on maintaining general big game winter range. Other uses may occur as long as it emphasizes habitat maintenance or enhancement and does not cause unacceptable stress on wildlife. Designation would be consistent with this direction.

The designation would conflict with the San Juan County Master Plan (Chapter 1 Policy of Public Lands, General/State: pages 9-13; Policy on Multiple Use: pages 13-15; Policy of Public Access: pages 18-21; Policy on Private and Public Land Ratios: pages 22-24; and Policy on Water Resources: pages 30-32).

Designation may potentially limit irrigation on the Tribal lands within the corridor.

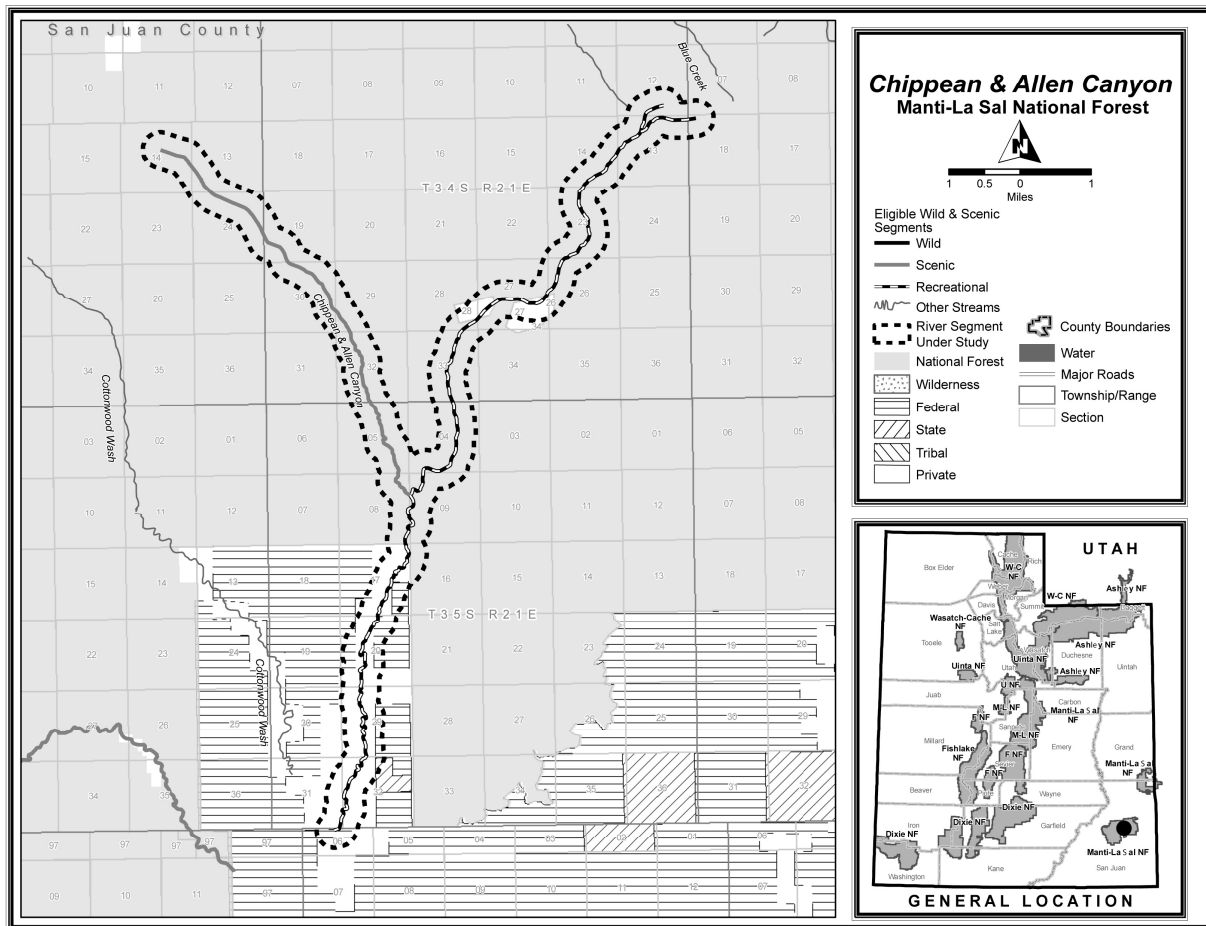
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

Hammond Canyon is a tributary to Cottonwood Creek which flows into the San Juan River at the town of Bluff, Utah. Before joining Cottonwood Creek the stream flows through BLM, Tribal and private lands. The stream is not being considered for wild and scenic status on these other lands. If the Forest Service segment was designated by itself it would contribute very little to river system or basin integrity, as the segment is a very small portion of the watershed.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

Several local environmental organizations have expressed interest in volunteering to assist in the management of Hammond Canyons if it was designated.

Chippean and Allen Canyons Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Chippean and Allen Canyons

River Mileage:

Chippean Canyon

Studied: 2.6 miles, from headwaters to junction with South Cottonwood Creek

Eligible: Same

Allen Canyon

Studied: 18.7 miles, from headwaters to junction with South Cottonwood Creek

Eligible: Same

Location: Coordinates are in UTM Zone 12 N. NAD 83, meters

Manti-La Sal National Forest, Monticello Ranger District, San Juan County, Utah		Congressional District 2	
Start	End	Classification	Miles

Allen Canyon-Segment 1	Northing 4187792 Easting 627311	Northing 4171632 Easting 619135	Recreational	18.7
Allen Canyon-Segment 2	Northing 4188080 Easting 626580	Same as segment 1		
Chippean Canyon	Northing 4187072 Easting 615205	Same as Allen Canyon	Scenic	2.6

Physical Description of River:

Chippean and Allen Canyons are of fluvial origin. There has been some erosion due to aeolian and mass-wasting processes, but the fluvial processes have dominated. The fluvial processes have been influenced by geologic structural process such as faulting and fracturing. The watercourses have down cut through slickrock of Navajo Sandstone in a meandering pattern except at the upper ends where they are more deeply incised, creating a steep narrow canyon and side canyons. The channel is mainly in exposed bedrock. Chippean and Allen Canyons are both intermittent streams and were identified as having flows sufficient to support the outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs). There is some perennial water in the upper and middle sections of the watercourse. Potholes are frequent in these areas and are filled during summer storms. Runoff in the lower half quickly disappears in the sandy soils or evaporates. Several springs exist in the canyon areas and serve as part of the perennial flows in the upper half of the canyon. Green vegetation along the stream courses contrasts with the white sandstone that confines the stream.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document:

Eligibility of Wild and Scenic Rivers – Manti-La Sal National Forest (March 2003), Re-evaluation of Eligible River Segments on the Monticello Ranger District (2006), Re-evaluation of Eight River Segments on the Monticello Ranger District (June 2007)

Determination of Free-flow:

There are no known diversions or significant channel modifications of Chippean or Allen Canyons on National Forest System lands. However, a significant diversion occurs on the stream flowing through Allen Canyon on private land.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs):

Cultural – The Forest has evidence from Chippean and Allen Canyons to suggest these canyon areas was used for over 6000 years attributable to Archaic, Ancestral Puebloan, Ute, and European-American cultures, although the majority of sites date to the Ancestral Puebloan era. Ancestral Puebloan cliff dwellings, granaries, rock art, and open air pueblo sites in these canyons are indicative of high altitude occupation of the forest, particularly during the Pueblo I period (A.D. 700-900). Sites from this period are not found on nearby Cedar Mesa and represent an important source of information for understanding the early formative period of the Ancestral Puebloan culture. Culturally, these sites exhibit ties toward the Mesa Verde core area to the east and may provide important data on prehistoric social interaction, economy, and other aspects of Ancestral Puebloan prehistory. Many of these sites are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and may yield important information about prehistory. Ninety sites have been documented within the ¼ mile buffer; 70 sites are of Ancestral Puebloan affiliation. Adjacent

to the Forest boundary are Ute allotment lands that were occupied during the early 1900s; these lands are no longer occupied, but are visited occasionally by land owners. Numerous additional sites are known to exist immediately beyond the corridors. Many of these resources are found on stream terraces and low ridges within the canyon bottoms, but there is no direct evidence of hydraulic agriculture. The intermittent streams would have provided water seasonally, but springs provided more reliable water for sustaining the population. The sites possess good integrity generally and have significant research and interpretive potential at a regional scale suggesting this river segment has high cultural values for these criteria. Current Native American uses are few in these canyons due to limited access.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River: Chippean Canyon –Scenic; Allen Canyon – Recreational
Forest Development Road (FDR) 095 runs along the ridgeline or "The Causeway" located outside of and north of the upper headwaters of Chippean Canyon. There are several low standard roads along the bench area west of the headwaters of Chippean Canyon. The lower and mid-elevation areas of the canyon are crossed or paralleled by several four-wheel drive non-system roads, and the non-motorized Posey Canyon Trail (452) crosses Chippean Canyon at mid-elevation.

Some developments and substantial evidence of human activity exists within the corridor. FDR 095 descends from the east-west trending ridgeline and crosses the upper end of Allen Canyon. Forest Development Road 384 provides access to the non-motorized Allen Canyon Trail (453). This trail parallels and crosses the watercourse in the lower half of the canyon and terminates at a low standard road on private land. This road then parallels the watercourse from the Forest boundary to the junction of the watercourse with South Cottonwood Creek. There is a water diversion and ditch in Allen Canyon above Bayles Ranch which fills an irrigation pond on the private land.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – The corridor around the eligible segment in Chippean Canyon is entirely on lands managed by the US forest Service.

The Allen Canyon segments contain both public lands managed by the US Forest Service and private lands. The table below shows ownership by river mileage. Private lands in the corridor are primarily used for agriculture in the form of irrigated alfalfa fields. The private lands also contain several residential structures and farm buildings.

Allen Canyon	
River Mile	Ownership/Approximate Acreage
0 – 4.4	US Forest Service/ 1420 acres
4.4- 4.8	Private land surrounds corridor/ 120 acres
4.8-5.1	US Forest Service/120 acres
5.1- 5.5	Private lands surround corridor/ 121 acres
5.5- 9.6	US Forest Service/ 1299 acres
9.6- 14.6	Private lands surround corridor/ 1606 acres
14.6- 14.7	BLM lands/22.4 acres

Readers Note: The study area boundaries displayed in Appendix A, Suitability Evaluation Reports, do not represent actual Wild and Scenic River boundaries, but the area of interest for eligible river segments. It should be noted that of the eligible rivers studied, 14 of the 86 river segments appear to include portions of private land, at the end of segments near the National Forest boundary. These typically short river stretches (1/4 to 4 miles long) were included in the eligibility study as part of the river segment length because they brought the river segment to a logical terminus at a confluence with a larger stream, also contained the ORV's of the National Forest portion of the segment, or National Forest land was located within ¼ mile of these segments. These lengths are also included in the tables found in this suitability

study. The magnitude of this effect is small, representing approximately 22 miles total over 14 segments, or less than 3 percent of the total mileage in the study. The final decision will apply only to river segments located on National Forest System lands. The dashed lines on the individual river maps represent the approximate 1/4 mile river corridor boundary of the river segment under study. If Congress chooses to add any of the recommended river segments to the National Wild and Scenic River System, the Forest Service would be required to develop Comprehensive River Management Plan (CRMP). Section 3(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires the establishment of detailed boundaries (an average of not more than 320 acres per river mile). At that time, the boundary would be adjusted to exclude private, State, or other Federal agency land located at the end or beginning of the river segment. Congress could include private lands (in holdings) within the boundaries of the designated river area, however, management restrictions would apply only to public lands.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – Several old claims exist within upper Chippean Canyon and lower Allen Canyons, but no current claims are known to exist. No current oil and gas leases exist within the corridor.

Water Resources Development – No water rights are listed in Utah’s Water Rights Database within the Chippean Creek Watershed. There are known dams, diversions, or other channel modifications on the Allen Canyon segment. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Two Forest Service roads cross the segment including Forest Road 095, which is maintained for low clearance vehicles. Forest Road 384 that crosses the segment is not currently accessible to the public because it is closed on private land. Several roads on the private lands are located adjacent to the stream segments. Forest Roads 215 and 209 are within the corridors of the eligible segments. Forest Service motorized trail 569 is within the corridor of Chippean Canyon for less than a mile. Forest Service non-motorized trails 013, 452, and 453 are within the corridor and cross the stream segments in several places.

Several structures are located within the corridor on private lands including residences and out buildings.

A line cabin associated with grazing in the area is located in the upper Allen Canyon drainage within the corridor.

Several old chainings exist along Chippean Ridge adjacent to the corridor.

Grazing Activities – Allen Canyon is within the West Mountain cattle allotment. Chippean Canyon is not within an allotment and is not currently grazed. Grazing also occurs on the private lands within the corridor.

Recreation Activities – As described above, several non-motorized and one motorized trail are within the corridor. Several of these trails see very little use and are difficult to locate on the ground. Trail 013 receives the most recreational use and is used to access the Skyline Trail located outside the corridor. The primary recreational activities occurring in the area are hiking, horseback riding, OHV touring along roads and motorized trails, big game hunting and dispersed camping.

Other Resource Activities – As described above irrigated agriculture occurs on private lands within the corridor. The potential exists for timber harvest in the upper end of Chippean Canyon.

Special Designations – The lower portions of both Allen and Chippean Canyons are located within the Allen Canyon-Dry Wash Roadless Area 10-249 and a portion of Allen Canyon corridor is also within the Cliff Dwellers Pastures Roadless Area. These areas are currently managed under the 2001 Roadless Rule

which prohibits most timber harvesting and construction of new roads. The entire corridor is within an area that is not administratively available for leasing and is also within the proposed South Cottonwood Archeological District.

Socio-Economic Environment – The eligible segments are located within San Juan County, the nearest population bases are Monticello and Blanding. The socio-economic setting of San Juan County is one based primarily on the service and tourism industries. The main reason that visitors come to the area is the incredible scenery and the wide range of outdoor activities available in the surrounding public lands.

San Juan County is a depressed (EZ/EC) county. While the rest of the country has enjoyed a large increase in wages and job earnings, San Juan County has been declining. The average earnings have fallen from \$27,903 in 1970 to \$22,480 in 2000. Net farm income was \$9 million in 1970 and by 2000 had dropped to \$2 million. In 2000, 28% of transfer payments (retirement, disability, Medicare, dividends, interest, rent, welfare) were from welfare. In 2001 the unemployment was 9.1% in San Juan County compared to 4.4% statewide and 4.8% nationally. When unemployment figures on the Reservations are factored in, the unemployment rate for the County is 22%. On portions of the Navajo Indian Reservation the unemployment rate is well over 50%. With 92% of the county in State, Federal or Navajo Reservation lands, any decision a federal land management agency makes has an impact on the county population.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is the USFS.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

There is no demonstrated commitment to share the administration of the eligible section by the State or its political subdivision

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any local zoning and/or land use controls that appear to conflict with protection of river values.

The non-federal land is zoned for agriculture and currently diverts much of the streams flow for irrigation use. The county is not interested in changing this zoning to protect any river values as it is their opinion that sufficient policies are in place to protect those values.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

In verbal comments received at the Suitability Open House in Moab and Monticello Utah, San Juan County was opposed to any other "layers of protection" for the segments. The County generally feels that there are sufficient policies in place to protect the values associated with the eligible segments. The Utah Rivers Council and Red Rock Forests have both expressed support for designating this segment.

Draft EIS comments

Comments from the San Juan County Commission, City of Monticello and local residents strongly oppose WSR designation for Chippean and Allen Canyons. Among the variety of reasons for opposing designation were: land ownership in Allen Canyon and its effect on management; San Juan County and White Mesa Ute have plans for water development; fear of loss of grazing and effect on economy; little hope of Forest getting extra money to manage river; probability of reduced grazing, and mining and oil exploration, and water rights restrictions having negative effect on economy.

Comments from individuals and groups not living in San Juan County voiced strong support for WSR designation of Chippean and Allen Canyons. Red Rock Forests is committed to assisting the Manti-La Sal National forest by providing volunteers and partnering in managing any and all segments that are designated as Wild and Scenic within the forest. None of the three organized campaigns supported a positive finding of suitability for this segment.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

The designation is consistent with the management plan prepared for the Cliff Dwellers Pasture RNA, as it would further protect the unique resources within the RNA. The designation would also be consistent with those portions of the streams within the Roadless Areas. The stream segment passes through three different areas of management emphasis as outlined in the Manti-La Sal Land and Resource Management Plan of 1986. The majority of Allen Canyon lies within the Range Emphasis area where the management direction is to produce wood fiber and where appropriate, forage. Other uses occur and the use or its rehabilitation will emphasize rangeland maintenance or enhancement. Designation would not be entirely inconsistent with this direction, but could potentially limit the ability to harvest wood fiber within the corridor to protect the ORV's. The portion of Allen Canyon within the Cliff Dwellers Pasture RNA is within an area that emphasizes protection of the values that the RNA was designated to protect. Other uses are limited by the need to maintain these values. Designation would be consistent with this management direction. The majority of Chippean Canyon and the lower end of Allen Canyon are within an area where the management emphasis is on maintaining general big game winter range. Other uses may occur as long as it emphasizes habitat maintenance or enhancement and does not cause unacceptable stress on wildlife. Designation would be consistent with this direction.

The designation would conflict with the San Juan County Master Plan (Chapter 1 Policy of Public Lands, General/State: pages 9-13; Policy on Multiple Use: pages 13-15; Policy of Public Access: pages 18-21; Policy on Private and Public Land Ratios: pages 22-24; and Policy on Water Resources: pages 30-32).

Designation could impact the irrigation on the private lands within the corridor.

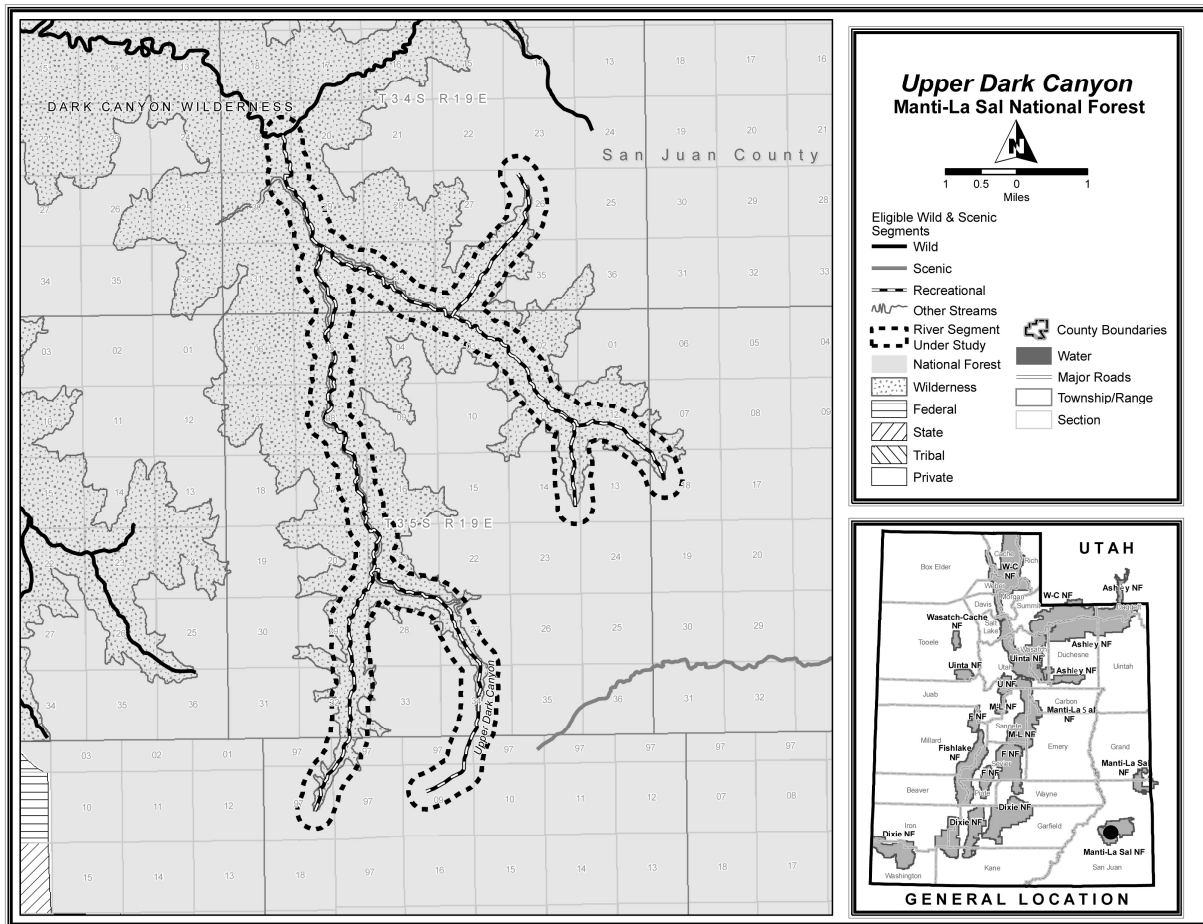
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

Chippean and Allen Canyons are very small tributaries to Cottonwood Creek which flows into the San Juan River at the town of Bluff, Utah. Before joining Cottonwood Creek the stream flows through BLM, Tribal and private lands. The stream is not being considered for wild and scenic status on these other lands. If the Forest segment was designated by itself it would contribute very little to river system or basin integrity, as the segment is a very small portion of the watershed.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

Several local environmental organizations have expressed interest in volunteering to assist in the management of Chippean and Allen canyons if they were designated.

Upper Dark Canyon Including Horse Pasture Canyon, Peavine & Kigalia Canyon Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Upper Dark Canyon Including Horse Pasture Canyon, Peavine & Kigalia Canyon

River Mileage:

Studied: 31.9 miles, from headwaters between North and South Elk Ridge on the East and Dry Mesa on the West to the junction of Upper Dark Canyon with Poison Canyon.

Eligible: Same

Location: *Coordinates are in UTM Zone 12 N. NAD 83, meters*

	Manti-La Sal National Forest, Monticello Ranger District, San Juan County, Utah		Congressional District 2	
	Start (Legal Description)	End	Classification	Miles

Upper Dark Canyon -Horse Pasture Canyon	Northing/ 4184242 Easting/ 604994	Northing/4185112 Easting/599664	Recreational	26.2*
- Kigalia Canyon	Northing/ 4170223 Easting/602916			
- Peavine Canyon	Northing/ 4169782 Easting/600395			
-Upper Dark Canyon East	Northing/ 4177284 Easting/ 606297			
-Upper Dark Canyon West	Northing/417667 Easting/606297			

* The mileage of this segment has been changed from an ocular estimate of mileage to mileage that was calculated using GIS

Physical Description of River

Upper Dark, Peavine, Kigalia, and Horse Pasture Canyons are intermittent streams with flows sufficient to support the outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs). The landscape is typical of the Colorado Plateau with rugged canyons bisecting rolling montane to sub montane mesas. Upper Dark Canyon and its tributaries have flashy hydrographs due to shallow soils and large amounts of exposed rock in the watershed. There is little absorption of precipitation events resulting in floods during convective events. Conversely, because of the lack of storage in soils in the system, it often goes dry during the growing season. Riparian areas are present in the drainage bottoms, although cover is discontinuous and of narrow aerial extent (with the exception of Horse Pasture Canyon). Unregulated livestock use at the turn of the century coincided with wetter years and more frequent and large floods. Although the wetter regime would have brought about some incision in the valley bottom, the combination of unregulated livestock and climatic fluctuations that changed regional flood frequency resulted in the formation of deep gullies in areas of unconsolidated alluvial fill throughout much of the canyons. One of the exceptions is Horse Pasture Canyon and an unnamed tributary to Dark Canyon to the southeast of Horse Pasture Canyon. Because gullies did not form in these areas, the water table remains at the surface of the canyon floor and supports large riparian wetland of reeds, sedges, willows, box elder and much else. Riparian vegetation is also present in the bottom of the wetter gullies in the canyons and narrow floodplains are becoming established in those areas also.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document:

Eligibility of Wild and Scenic Rivers – Manti-La Sal National Forest (March 2003), Re-evaluation of Eligible River Segments on the Monticello Ranger District (2006), Re-evaluation of Eight River Segments on the Monticello Ranger District (June 2007)

Determination of Free-flow:

There are no major diversions or significant channel modifications in these segments.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs):

Geologic – These canyons are located on the northwestern flank of the Elk Ridge Anticline. The stratigraphic section shown goes from the Upper Pennsylvanian through the Triassic, with several prominent unconformities. The canyons are generally oriented northwest-southeast, probably due to the dominant fracture pattern in the area. Abandoned uranium mines are present along the upper canyon rims where they meet Elk Ridge. The uranium deposits are in the Moss Back Member of the Chinle Formation, where it unconformably overlies the Moenkopi Formation. These canyons contain the most

striking example of the white Cedar Mesa sandstone with dark green vegetation in the area, which produces one of the most characteristic features of Dark Canyon. The bottom of the canyon also contains green vegetation (grass, sagebrush, and mountain brush), contrasted with most of the canyon country in the area. In the area of the intersection of Peavine Canyon with Dark Canyon, the Cedar Mesa has weathered to form spires, fins, and arches. These canyons have a high rating for feature abundance, diversity of features, and education and scientific value. Based on the overall abundance and diversity of these geologic attributes, they would be similar or equivalent to areas of regional importance.

Cultural – Ample evidence from Upper Dark Canyon suggests the canyon area was used for over 6000 years. There are numerous prehistoric sites ranging from artifact scatters to cliff dwellings. Many of these sites are eligible to the National Register of Historic Places and may yield important information about prehistory. Temporally, there are well preserved Archaic period sites and Ancestral Puebloan sites. There is a Historic period cultural landscape related to early 20th century European-American use of the canyon for livestock and early oil extraction activities. The Scorup cattle operation is significant in local history and the settlement of San Juan County. Most of the resources are within the ¼ mile buffer. These resources are not strongly associated with the stream segments, but rather the general canyon environment (e.g., topography). Ancestral Puebloan occupations in this area reach elevations exceeding 7600 ft and represent prehistoric agricultural adaptations to high altitudes that are not found on surrounding BLM lands and few places in the region, such as Mesa Verde National Park. Early and Middle Archaic period sites found in this area contain cultural deposits that are of high research value for understanding this poorly understood period of prehistory. Several resources have significant research and interpretive potential suggesting this river segment has high cultural values.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River: Recreational

Some developments, significant evidence of human activity. Improved and unimproved Forest Development Roads (FDR's) are located on Elk Ridge east of Upper Dark Canyon and on Dry Mesa located between Upper Dark Canyon and Lower Dark Canyon. Roads under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management are located to the west and north of the canyon areas. These Forest Service and BLM Roads serve as access routes to the perimeter of the Dark Canyon Watershed and Dark Canyon Wilderness.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – The entire corridor is located on lands managed by the US Forest Service

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – No current claims or leases exist within the corridor.

Water Resources Development – Currently the only existing water developments in these canyons are related to livestock management and consist of small stock ponds and spring developments. These developments do not affect the river's free-flowing condition. There are no known water resource projects that could be limited by designation of this river segment as wild and scenic. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – The only roads within the corridor are FS Road 089 and 378 known as the Peavine Corridor. This road drops into Kigalia Canyon and follows it to the confluence with Peavine Canyon and then down to Dark Canyon. The road goes up Dark Canyon almost to the mouth of Horse Pasture Canyon and down Dark Canyon to Rig Canyon and then up Rig Canyon a short distance.

The Peavine Canyon (157), Kigalia Canyon (026), Brushy Knoll (023), Dark Canyon (006), Drift Trail Canyon (024), and Horse Pasture (025) Trails parallel and cross several of the eligible segments.

Several corrals, one in Peavine Canyon and one at the mouth of Rig Canyon, exist within the corridor as well as the historic Scorup Cabin at the mouth of Horse Pasture Canyon.

An abandoned drill rig is also within the corridor in Rig Canyon.

Grazing Activities – The eligible segment corridors are located within the Twin Springs and Babylon Pasture cattle allotments. The permittee is also authorized to graze Horse Pasture Canyon with 6-7 horses for several months in the summer and fall.

Recreation Activities – The Peavine Canyon (157), Kigalia Canyon (026), Brushy Knoll (023), Dark Canyon (006), Drift Trail Canyon (024), and Horse Pasture (025) Trails provide outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation in the form of hiking, backpacking and horseback riding. The Horse Pasture Dark Canyon and Peavine trails are the most heavily used and receive substantial use in the spring and fall.

OHV touring occurs along the Peavine Corridor.

Hunting for big game is popular along the adjacent uplands and mesa tops

Other Resource Activities – Timber harvest potential exists in the heads of the canyons outside the Wilderness and Roadless Areas.

Special Designations – The majority of the eligible corridor is within the Dark Canyon Wilderness designated in 1984 to protect the wilderness values of solitude, naturalness, and untrammelled character found in the canyon system. The heads of the canyons are located within the Dark -Woodenshoe 10-436 Roadless Area. The Roadless Area is currently managed under the 2001 Roadless Rule which prohibits most timber harvesting and construction of new roads.

Socio-Economic Environment – The eligible segment is located within San Juan County, the nearest population bases are Monticello and Blanding. The socio-economic setting of San Juan County is one based primarily on the service and tourism industries. The main reason that visitors come to the area is the incredible scenery and the wide range of outdoor activities available in the surrounding public lands. While the majority of visitors to the area come to see surrounding National Parks the Abajo Mountains and Elk Ridge in the Monticello Ranger District provide a respite from the heat of the desert in the summer and draw considerable use during the fall big game hunting seasons.

San Juan County is a depressed (EZ/EC) county. While the rest of the country has enjoyed a large increase in wages and job earnings, San Juan County has been declining. The average earnings have fallen from \$27,903 in 1970 to \$22,480 in 2000. Net farm income was \$9 million in 1970 and by 2000 had dropped to \$2 million. In 2000, 28% of transfer payments (retirement, disability, Medicare, dividends, interest, rent, welfare) were from welfare. In 2001 the unemployment rate was 9.1% in San Juan County compared to 4.4% statewide and 4.8% nationally. When unemployment figures on the Reservations are factored in, the unemployment rate for the county is 22%. On portions of the Navajo Indian Reservation the unemployment rate is well over 50%. With 92% of the county in State, Federal or Navajo Reservation lands, any decision a federal land management agency makes has an impact on the county population.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is the USFS.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

There is no demonstrated commitment to share the administration of the eligible section by the State or its political subdivision

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any local zoning and/or land use controls that appear to conflict with protection of river values.

The entire corridor is located on lands managed by the US Forest Service. The county is not interested in changing this zoning to protect any river values as it is their opinion that sufficient policies are in place to protect those values.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

In verbal comments received at the Suitability Open House in Moab and Monticello Utah, San Juan County was opposed to any other "layers of protection" for the segment. The County generally feels that there are sufficient policies in place to protect the values associated with the eligible segment. The Utah Rivers Council and Red Rock Forests have both expressed support for designating this segment.

Draft EIS comments from the San Juan County Commission, City of Monticello and local residents strongly oppose WSR designation for Upper Dark Canyon. Among the variety of reasons for opposing designation were: segment is in a designated Wilderness Area; the probability of reduced grazing, mining and oil exploration water rights restrictions would have a negative effect on the economy; financially it would be difficult to manage; it is not free-flowing; and it is inconsistent with the San Juan County Master Plan.

Draft EIS comments from individuals and groups not living in San Juan County voiced strong support for WSR designation of Upper Dark Canyon. Among the variety of reasons for supporting designation were: it is unique; and its contribution to the basin integrity; to be consistent with BLM designation. All of the three organized campaigns support a positive suitability finding and designation of this segment. Red Rock Forests is committed to assisting the Manti-La Sal National forest by providing volunteers and partnering in managing any and all segments that are designated as Wild and Scenic within the forest.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

The designation would be consistent with those portions of the stream within the Dark Canyon Wilderness and Roadless Area. The management direction in the Manti-La Sal Land and Resource Management Plan of 1986 for the area is to protect wilderness opportunities. Other uses can occur so long as they do not violate the intent of wilderness or wilderness values. Designation would be consistent with this management direction. A portion of the stream also flows through an area with a Semi-Primitive Recreation emphasis where the management direction is to provide semi-primitive recreation

opportunities. Other uses may occur so long as they are rehabilitated to reflect as close as possible previous undisturbed conditions. Designation would also be consistent with this direction.

The designation would conflict with the San Juan County Master Plan (Chapter 1 Policy of Public Lands, General/State: pages 9-13; Policy on Multiple Use: pages 13-15; Policy of Public Access: pages 18-21; Policy on Private and Public Land Ratios: pages 22-24; and Policy on Water Resources: pages 30-32).

(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

Upper Dark Canyon and the associated eligible tributaries is a tributary to the Colorado River. Upper Dark Canyon joins the Colorado River in the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. Before joining the Colorado the stream flows through BLM and NPS lands. If the Forest Service segment was designated by itself, it would contribute some to basin integrity since the eligible Forest Service segment contains the entire upper watershed of Dark Canyon. However, if the Forest Service, BLM and NPS portions of the creek were designated it would add protection to the entire watershed. Currently the BLM portion of the stream has been found eligible from Youngs Canyon to the confluence. Suitability has not yet been determined for the BLM portion.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

Several local environmental organizations have expressed interest in volunteering to assist in the management of Dark Canyon if it were designated.

Lower Dark Canyon	Northing/4189961 Easting/605919	Northing/4187631 Easting/ 586967		
Poison Canyon East				
Poison Canyon West	Northing/4190503 Easting/608243			
Deadman Canyon	Northing/4185221 Easting/606684		Wild	41.2
Woodenshoe Canyon	Northing/4171428 Easting/594321			
Cherry Canyon North	Northing/4185221 Easting/606684			
Cherry Canyon South	Northing/4172917 Easting/597687			

Physical Description of River: Lower Dark, Poison, Deadman, Woodenshoe, and Cherry Canyons are intermittent streams and were identified as having flows sufficient to support the outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs). The landscape is typical of the Colorado plateau with rugged canyons bisecting rolling montane to sub montane mesas. Dark Canyon and its tributaries have flashy hydrographs due to shallow soils and large amounts of exposed rock in the watershed. There is little absorption of precipitation events resulting in floods during convective events. Conversely, because of the lack of storage in soils in the system, it often goes dry during the growing season. Riparian areas are present in the drainage bottoms although cover is discontinuous and of narrow aerial extent. Unregulated livestock use at the turn of the century coincided with wetter years and more frequent and large floods. Although the wetter regime would have brought about some incision in the valley bottom, the combination of unregulated livestock and climatic fluctuations that changed regional flood frequency resulted in the formation of deep gullies in areas of unconsolidated alluvial fill throughout much of the canyons. Riparian vegetation is also present in the bottom of the wetter gullies in the canyons and narrow floodplains are becoming established in those areas also. The fluvial processes of erosion have been influenced by geologic structural process such as faulting and fracturing. The canyons abruptly cut through rim rock and exposed bedrock of Navajo sandstone as they descend from the bench and mesa areas of Elk Ridge. The steep, narrow canyon areas are unique representations of six sequential geologic formations, starting with Navajo sandstone and ending in the Cutler formation. The lower reaches drop in to broad valley bottoms of deep alluvial material. Canyon terrain consists of steep terraces, spires, hanging gardens, and arches. Springs, seeps, and potholes are found in the upper and middle reaches of the canyons. Several intermittent pour over waterfalls are present in Woodenshoe Canyon.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Eligibility of Wild and Scenic Rivers – Manti-La Sal National Forest (March 2003), Re-evaluation of Eligible River Segments on the Monticello Ranger District (2006), Re-evaluation of Eight River Segments on the Monticello Ranger District (June 2007).

Determination of Free-flow: There are no known diversions, impoundments, or other channel modifications of Lower Dark Canyon including Poison Canyon, Deadman Canyon, Woodenshoe and Cherry Canyons.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs):

Cultural – Evidence from Woodenshoe and Lower Dark Canyon suggest the canyon area was used for over 6000 years. There are numerous prehistoric sites ranging from artifact scatters to cliff dwellings. Ancestral Puebloan cliff dwellings, granaries, rock art, and open air sites in Woodenshoe and Lower Dark Canyon are indicative of high altitude occupation of the forest, particularly during the late A.D. 1100s. Culturally, these sites exhibit ties toward the west and may provide important data on prehistoric social interaction, economy, and other aspects of late Ancestral Puebloan prehistory. Many of these sites are eligible to the National Register of Historic Places and may yield important information about prehistory. Many of the resources are within the ¼ mile buffer. These resources are not strongly associated with the stream segments, but rather the general canyon environment (e.g., topography). Several resources have significant research and interpretive potential suggesting this river segment has high cultural values.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River: Wild

Essentially primitive, little or no evidence of human activity, and generally inaccessible except by trail.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – The entire corridor is located on lands managed by the US Forest Service

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – No current claims or leases exist within the corridor. There are several current uranium claims along the rim of Woodenshoe Canyon outside of the corridor of the eligible segment. Several old mines and claims are located in Woodenshoe and Peavine Canyons.

Water Resources Development – Currently the only existing constructions in these canyons are related to livestock management and consist of small stock ponds and spring developments. These developments do not affect the river's free-flowing condition. There are no known water resource projects that could be limited by designation of this river segment as Wild and Scenic. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – The Dark Canyon (006) and Woodenshoe Canyon (165) trails parallel and cross the eligible segments. Trail Canyon (007) and Poison Canyon (158) trails also provide access to the segments. All of these trails are within the wilderness and are non-motorized trails.

Grazing Activities – The eligible segments are within the Twin Springs allotment, but Wooden Shoe Canyon and Lower Dark Canyon are closed to grazing.

Recreation Activities – The Woodenshoe-Dark Canyon is a relatively popular multi-day backpack trip which provides outstanding opportunities for solitude, primitive recreation and a chance to view Ancestral Puebloan ruins in a wilderness setting. The wilderness is also popular with day hikers and horse back riders.

Hunting for big game is popular along the adjacent uplands and mesa tops.

Other Resource Activities – No other resource activities are proposed at this time

Special Designations – The majority of the eligible corridor is within the Dark Canyon Wilderness designated in 1984 to protect the wilderness values of solitude, naturalness, and untrammelled character found in the canyon system. The heads of the canyons are located within the Dark -Woodenshoe 10-436 Roadless Area. The Roadless Area is currently managed under the 2001 Roadless Rule which prohibits most timber harvesting and construction of new roads.

Socio-Economic Environment – The eligible segment is located within San Juan County, the nearest population bases are Monticello and Blanding. The socio-economic setting of San Juan County is one based primarily on the service and tourism industries. The main reason that visitors come to the area is the incredible scenery and the wide range of outdoor activities available in the surrounding public lands. While the majority of visitors to the area come to see surrounding National Parks the Abajo Mountains and Elk Ridge in the Monticello Ranger District provide a respite from the heat of the desert in the summer and draw considerable use during the fall big game hunting seasons.

San Juan County is a depressed (EZ/EC) county. While the rest of the country has enjoyed a large increase in wages and job earnings, San Juan County has been declining. The average earnings have fallen from \$27,903 in 1970 to \$22,480 in 2000. Net farm income was \$9 million in 1970 and by 2000 had dropped to \$2 million. In 2000, 28% of transfer payments (retirement, disability, Medicare, dividends, interest, rent, welfare) were from welfare. In 2001 the unemployment rate was 9.1% in San Juan County compared to 4.4% statewide and 4.8% nationally. When unemployment figures on the Reservations are factored in, the unemployment rate for the county is 22%. On portions of the Navajo Indian Reservation the unemployment rate is well over 50%. With 92% of the county in State, Federal or Navajo Reservation lands, any decision a federal land management agency makes has an impact on the county population.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is the USFS.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT

(1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

There is no demonstrated commitment to share the administration of the eligible section by the State or its political subdivision

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any local zoning and/or land use controls that appear to conflict with protection of river values.

The entire stream corridor is located on federal lands. The county is not interested in changing this zoning to protect any river values as it is their opinion that sufficient policies are in place to protect those values.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

In verbal comments received at the Suitability Open House in Moab and Monticello Utah, San Juan County was opposed to any other "layers of protection" for the segment. The County generally feels that there are sufficient policies in place to protect the values associated with the eligible segment. The Utah Rivers Council and Red Rock Forests have both expressed support for designating this segment.

Draft EIS comments from the San Juan County Commission, City of Monticello and local residents strongly oppose WSR designation for Lower Dark Canyon. Among the variety of reasons for opposing designation were: segment is in a designated Wilderness Area; the probability of reduced grazing, mining and oil exploration water rights restrictions would have a negative effect on the economy; financially it would be difficult to manage; and it is inconsistent with the San Juan County Master Plan

Draft EIS comments from individuals and groups not living in San Juan County voiced strong support for WSR designation of Upper Dark Canyon. Among the variety of reasons for supporting designation were: its contribution to the basin integrity; to protect the Mexican spotted owls; unsurpassed beauty, peace and solitude; could complement Wilderness designation; and to be consistent with BLM designation. All of the three organized campaigns support a positive suitability finding and designation of this segment. Red Rock Forests is committed to assisting the Manti-La Sal National forest by providing volunteers and partnering in managing any and all segments that are designated as Wild and Scenic within the forest.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation would be consistent with those portions of the stream within the Dark Canyon Wilderness and Roadless Area. The management direction in the Manti-La Sal Land and Resource Management Plan of 1986 for the area is to protect wilderness opportunities. Other uses can occur so long as they do not violate the intent of wilderness or wilderness values. Designation would be consistent with this management direction.

The designation would conflict with the San Juan County Master Plan (Chapter 1 Policy of Public Lands, General/State: pages 9-13; Policy on Multiple Use: pages 13-15; Policy of Public Access: pages 18-21; Policy on Private and Public Land Ratios: pages 22-24; and Policy on Water Resources: pages 30-32).

(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

Lower Dark Canyon and associated eligible tributaries, is a tributary to the Colorado River. Dark Canyon joins the Colorado River in the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. Before joining the Colorado the river segment flows through BLM and NPS lands. If the Forest Service segment was designated by itself, it would contribute some to the basin integrity, since the eligible Forest Service segment contains the entire upper watershed of Woodenshoe Canyon and a portion of Dark Canyon. However, if the Forest Service, BLM, and NPS portions of the creek were designated it would add protection to the entire watershed. Currently the BLM portion of the stream has been found eligible from Youngs Canyon to the confluence. Suitability has not yet been determined for the BLM portion.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

Several local environmental organizations have expressed interest in volunteering to assist in the management of Lower Dark Canyon if it was designated.